

SENATE RESOLUTION 328—CONDAMNING THE ASSASSINATION ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2007, OF ANTOINE GHANEM, A MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF LEBANON WHO OPPOSED SYRIAN INTERFERENCE IN LEBANON

Mr. REID (for Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. SUNUNU)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 328

Whereas Antoine Ghanem and at least 6 others were killed in a car-bomb attack in the Sin el-Fil suburb of Beirut on September 19, 2007;

Whereas Mr. Ghanem was a member of the Parliament of Lebanon from the Lebanese Kataeb Party representing the Baabda and Aley districts of Mount Lebanon;

Whereas Mr. Ghanem is the 6th member of the Parliament of Lebanon who had opposed Syrian interference in Lebanon to be assassinated since February 2005, including former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri, former Economy and Trade Minister Bassel Fleihan, Gebran Tueni, Industry Minister Pierre Gemayel, and Walid Eido;

Whereas other prominent figures in Lebanon who have opposed Syrian interference in that country have also been assassinated in the same time period, including politician George Hawi and journalist Samir Kassir, while others have escaped assassination attempts, including Defense Minister Elias Murr, Telecommunications Minister Marwan Hamadeh, and television presenter May Chidiac;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1757 of May 30, 2007, created a special international tribunal to try suspects in the assassinations of former Prime Minister Hariri and others;

Whereas, by agreement between the United Nations and Lebanon, the special international tribunal can receive jurisdiction for other attacks in Lebanon that “are of a nature and gravity similar to the attack of 14 February 2005”; and

Whereas these continuing assassinations are intended to undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon and damage its fragile democratic institutions; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its deepest condolences to the families of Antoine Ghanem and other victims of the attack of September 19, 2007, as well as to all the people of Lebanon;

(2) condemns in the strongest terms this cowardly attack and urges that its perpetrators, including any state sponsor or official, be held accountable for their crimes;

(3) underscores its full support for the special international tribunal and urges the United Nations Security Council to extend its jurisdiction to include the Ghanem assassination;

(4) urges the President to increase coordination with key partners in Europe and the Middle East to more actively support the sovereignty of Lebanon and strengthen its governing institutions and security forces; and

(5) reasserts its strong belief that the people of Lebanon should be permitted to choose their next president, in a process scheduled to begin in September 2007, free from all foreign intimidation, interference, and violence.

SENATE RESOLUTION 329—CONGRATULATING SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. OBAMA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 329

Whereas Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a year-long celebration, beginning September 24, 2007;

Whereas SIUE has grown from 1,776 students to nearly 13,500 students from 101 Illinois counties, 43 other States, and 46 Nations;

Whereas SIUE has conferred more than 90,000 degrees in its history and has more than 75,000 alumni;

Whereas the SIUE School of Dental Medicine is rated among the top dental schools in the Nation and provides more than \$50,000 in free oral health care to children annually through Give Kids a Smile Day;

Whereas the SIUE East St. Louis Center is dedicated to improving the lives of families and individuals in East St. Louis and surrounding urban communities;

Whereas the University finished 4th nationally in the United States Sports Academy Directors’ Cup among National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II schools in 2006;

Whereas SIUE contributes roughly \$356,000,000 to the regional economy, and more than 37,000 alumni live in the region and contribute to the economy;

Whereas SIUE is the home of University Park, an applied research and technology park located on the SIUE campus that is home to the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center and the Biotechnology Laboratory Incubator; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) on its 50th anniversary, and wishes SIUE success in its continued service to the Nation as a center of educational advancement in Southern Illinois.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3023. Mr. KERRY (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3024. Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. HAGEL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3025. Mrs. CLINTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3026. Mr. OBAMA (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3027. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3028. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3029. Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3030. Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. HATCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3031. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3032. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3023. Mr. KERRY (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10. COMMERCIALIZATION PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 9(y) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(y)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: “The authority to create and administer a Commercialization Pilot Program under this subsection may not be construed to eliminate or replace any other SBIR program that enhances the insertion or transition of SBIR technologies, including any such program in effect on the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109-163; 119 Stat. 3136).”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) INSERTION INCENTIVES.—For any contract with a value of not less than \$100,000,000, the Secretary of Defense is authorized to—

“(A) establish goals for transitioning Phase III technologies in subcontracting plans; and

“(B) require a prime contractor on such a contract to report the number and dollar amount of contracts entered into by that prime contractor for Phase III SBIR projects.

“(6) GOAL FOR SBIR TECHNOLOGY INSERTION.—The Secretary of Defense shall—

“(A) set a goal to increase the number of Phase II contracts awarded by that Secretary that lead to technology transition into programs of record or fielded systems;

“(B) use incentives in effect on the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, or create new incentives, to encourage prime contractors to meet the goal under subparagraph (A); and

“(C) submit to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives an annual report regarding the percentage of contracts described in subparagraph (A) awarded by that Secretary.”; and

(4) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated, by striking “fiscal year 2009” and inserting “fiscal year 2012”.

SA 3024. Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. HAGEL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION D—VETERAN SMALL BUSINESSES

SEC. 4001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2007”.

SEC. 4002. DEFINITIONS.

In this division—

(1) the term “activated” means receiving an order placing a Reservist on active duty;

(2) the term “active duty” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code;

(3) the terms “Administration” and “Administrator” mean the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

(4) the term “Reservist” means a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, as described in section 10101 of title 10, United States Code;

(5) the term “Service Corps of Retired Executives” means the Service Corps of Retired Executives authorized by section 8(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1));

(6) the terms “service-disabled veteran” and “small business concern” have the meaning as in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632);

(7) the term “small business development center” means a small business development center described in section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648); and

(8) the term “women’s business center” means a women’s business center described in section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656).

TITLE XLI—VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 4101. INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Office of Veterans Business Development of the Administration, to remain available until expended—

- (1) \$2,100,000 for fiscal year 2008;
- (2) \$2,300,000 for fiscal year 2009; and
- (3) \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2010.

(b) FUNDING OFFSET.—Amounts necessary to carry out subsection (a) shall be offset and made available through the reduction of the authorization of funding under section 20(e)(1)(B)(iv) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note).

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that any amounts provided pursuant

to this section that are in excess of amounts provided to the Administration for the Office of Veterans Business Development in fiscal year 2007, should be used to support Veterans Business Outreach Centers.

SEC. 4102. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.

Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the President shall establish an interagency task force to coordinate the efforts of Federal agencies necessary to increase capital and business development opportunities for, and increase the award of of Federal contracting and subcontracting opportunities to, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans (in this section referred to as the ‘task force’).

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The members of the task force shall include—

“(A) the Administrator, who shall serve as chairperson of the task force;

“(B) a representative from—

“(i) the Department of Veterans Affairs;

“(ii) the Department of Defense;

“(iii) the Administration (in addition to the Administrator);

“(iv) the Department of Labor;

“(v) the Department of the Treasury;

“(vi) the General Services Administration; and

“(vii) the Office of Management and Budget; and

“(C) 4 representatives from a veterans service organization or military organization or association, selected by the President.

“(3) DUTIES.—The task force shall coordinate administrative and regulatory activities and develop proposals relating to—

“(A) increasing capital access and capacity of small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans through loans, surety bonding, and franchising;

“(B) increasing access to Federal contracting and subcontracting for small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans through expanded mentor-protégé assistance and matching such small business concerns with contracting opportunities;

“(C) increasing the integrity of certifications of status as a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans or a small business concern owned and controlled by veterans;

“(D) reducing paperwork and administrative burdens on veterans in accessing business development and entrepreneurship opportunities; and

“(E) making other improvements relating to the support for veterans business development by the Federal Government.

“(4) REPORTING.—The task force shall submit an annual report regarding its activities and proposals to—

“(A) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.”.

SEC. 4103. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF SBA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS BUSINESS AFFAIRS.

(a) ASSUMPTION OF DUTIES.—Section 33 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (h); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (i) through (k) as subsections (h) through (j), respectively.

(b) PERMANENT EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 203 of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (15 U.S.C. 657b note) is amended by striking subsection (h).

TITLE XLII—NATIONAL RESERVIST ENTERPRISE TRANSITION AND SUSTAINABILITY

SEC. 4201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “National Reservist Enterprise Transition and Sustainability Act of 2007”.

SEC. 4202. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to establish a program to—

(1) provide managerial, financial, planning, development, technical, and regulatory assistance to small business concerns owned and operated by Reservists;

(2) provide managerial, financial, planning, development, technical, and regulatory assistance to the temporary heads of small business concerns owned and operated by Reservists;

(3) create a partnership between the Small Business Administration, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist small business concerns owned and operated by Reservists;

(4) utilize the service delivery network of small business development centers, women’s business centers, Veterans Business Outreach Centers, and centers operated by the National Veterans Business Development Corporation to expand the access of small business concerns owned and operated by Reservists to programs providing business management, development, financial, procurement, technical, regulatory, and marketing assistance;

(5) utilize the service delivery network of small business development centers, women’s business centers, Veterans Business Outreach Centers, and centers operated by the National Veterans Business Development Corporation to quickly respond to an activation of Reservists that own and operate small business concerns; and

(6) utilize the service delivery network of small business development centers, women’s business centers, Veterans Business Outreach Centers, and centers operated by the National Veterans Business Development Corporation to assist Reservists that own and operate small business concerns in preparing for future military activations.

SEC. 4203. NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(1)) is amended by inserting “any small business development center, women’s business center, Veterans Business Outreach Center, or center operated by the National Veterans Business Development Corporation providing enterprise transition and sustainability assistance to Reservists under section 37,” after “any women’s business center operating pursuant to section 29.”.

(b) PROGRAM.—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 37 (15 U.S.C. 631 note) as section 38; and

(2) by inserting after section 36 the following:

SEC. 37. RESERVIST ENTERPRISE TRANSITION AND SUSTAINABILITY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish a program to provide business planning assistance to small business concerns owned and operated by Reservists.

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the terms ‘activated’ and ‘activation’ mean having received an order placing a Reservists on active duty, as defined by section 101(1) of title 10, United States Code;

“(2) the term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, acting through the Associate Administrator for Small Business Development Centers;

“(3) the term ‘Association’ means the association established under section 21(a)(3)(A);

“(4) the term ‘eligible applicant’ means—

“(A) a small business development center that is accredited under section 21(k);

“(B) a women’s business center;

“(C) a Veterans Business Outreach Center that receives funds from the Office of Veterans Business Development; or

“(D) an information and assistance center operated by the National Veterans Business Development Corporation under section 33;

“(5) the term ‘enterprise transition and sustainability assistance’ means assistance provided by an eligible applicant to a small business concern owned and operated by a Reservist, who has been activated or is likely to be activated in the next 12 months, to develop and implement a business strategy for the period while the owner is on active duty and 6 months after the date of the return of the owner;

“(6) the term ‘Reservist’ means any person who is—

“(A) a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, as defined by section 10101 of title 10, United States Code; and

“(B) on active status, as defined by section 101(d)(4) of title 10, United States Code;

“(7) the term ‘small business development center’ means a small business development center as described in section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648);

“(8) the term ‘State’ means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam; and

“(9) the term ‘women’s business center’ means a women’s business center described in section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656).

“(c) AUTHORITY.—The Administrator may award grants, in accordance with the regulations developed under subsection (d), to eligible applicants to assist small business concerns owned and operated by Reservists by—

“(1) providing management, development, financing, procurement, technical, regulatory, and marketing assistance;

“(2) providing access to information and resources, including Federal and State business assistance programs;

“(3) distributing contact information provided by the Department of Defense regarding activated Reservists to corresponding State directors;

“(4) offering free, one-on-one, in-depth counseling regarding management, development, financing, procurement, regulations, and marketing;

“(5) assisting in developing a long-term plan for possible future activation; and

“(6) providing enterprise transition and sustainability assistance.

“(d) RULEMAKING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Association and after notice and an opportunity for comment, shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section.

“(2) DEADLINE.—The Administrator shall promulgate final regulations not later than 180 days of the date of enactment of the Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2007.

“(3) CONTENTS.—The regulations developed by the Administrator under this subsection shall establish—

“(A) procedures for identifying, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, States that have had a recent activation of Reservists;

“(B) priorities for the types of assistance to be provided under the program authorized by this section;

“(C) standards relating to educational, technical, and support services to be provided by a grantee;

“(D) standards relating to any national service delivery and support function to be provided by a grantee;

“(E) standards relating to any work plan that the Administrator may require a grantee to develop; and

“(F) standards relating to the educational, technical, and professional competency of any expert or other assistance provider to whom a small business concern may be referred for assistance by a grantee.

“(e) APPLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible applicant desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Administrator at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Administrator may reasonably require.

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall describe—

“(A) the activities for which the applicant seeks assistance under this section; and

“(B) how the applicant plans to allocate funds within its network.

“(f) AWARD OF GRANTS.—

“(1) DEADLINE.—The Administrator shall award grants not later than 60 days after the promulgation of final rules and regulations under subsection (d).

“(2) AMOUNT.—Each eligible applicant awarded a grant under this section shall receive a grant in an amount not greater than \$300,000 per fiscal year.

“(g) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

“(A) initiate an evaluation of the program not later than 30 months after the disbursement of the first grant under this section; and

“(B) submit a report not later than 6 months after the initiation of the evaluation under paragraph (1) to—

“(i) the Administrator;

“(ii) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

“(iii) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) address the results of the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1); and

“(B) recommend changes to law, if any, that it believes would be necessary or advisable to achieve the goals of this section.

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(A) \$5,000,000 for the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of the Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2007; and

“(B) \$5,000,000 for each of the 3 fiscal years following the fiscal year described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) FUNDING OFFSET.—Amounts necessary to carry out this section shall be offset and made available through the reduction of the authorization of funding under section 20(e)(1)(B)(iv) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note).”.

TITLE XLIII—RESERVIST PROGRAMS

SEC. 4301. RESERVIST PROGRAMS.

(a) APPLICATION PERIOD.—Section 7(b)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)(C)) is amended by striking “90 days” and inserting “1 year”.

(b) PRE-CONSIDERATION PROCESS.—

(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “eligible Reservist” means a Reservist who—

(A) has not been ordered to active duty;

(B) expects to be ordered to active duty during a period of military conflict; and

(C) can reasonably demonstrate that the small business concern for which that Reservist is a key employee will suffer economic injury in the absence of that Reservist.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish a pre-consideration process, under which the Administrator—

(A) may collect all relevant materials necessary for processing a loan to a small business concern under section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)) before an eligible Reservist employed by that small business concern is activated; and

(B) shall distribute funds for any loan approved under subparagraph (A) if that eligible Reservist is activated.

(c) OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense, shall develop a comprehensive outreach and technical assistance program (in this subsection referred to as the “program”) to—

(A) market the loans available under section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)) to Reservists, and family members of Reservists, that are on active duty and that are not on active duty; and

(B) provide technical assistance to a small business concern applying for a loan under that section.

(2) COMPONENTS.—The program shall—

(A) incorporate appropriate websites maintained by the Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense; and

(B) require that information on the program is made available to small business concerns directly through—

(i) the district offices and resource partners of the Administration, including small business development centers, women’s business centers, and the Service Corps of Retired Executives; and

(ii) other Federal agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

(3) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 6 months thereafter until the date that is 30 months after such date of enactment, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the status of the program.

(B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) for the 6-month period ending on the date of that report—

(I) the number of loans approved under section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3));

(II) the number of loans disbursed under that section; and

(III) the total amount disbursed under that section; and

(ii) recommendations, if any, to make the program more effective in serving small business concerns that employ Reservists.

SEC. 4302. RESERVIST LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b)(3)(E) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)(E)) is amended by striking “\$1,500,000” each place such term appears and inserting “\$2,000,000”.

(b) LOAN INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator and the Secretary of Defense shall develop a joint website and printed materials providing information regarding any program for small business concerns that is available to veterans or Reservists.

(2) MARKETING.—The Administrator is authorized—

(A) to advertise and promote the program under section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act jointly with the Secretary of Defense and veterans' service organizations; and

(B) to advertise and promote participation by lenders in such program jointly with trade associations for banks or other lending institutions.

SEC. 4303. NONCOLLATERALIZED LOANS.

Section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(G)(i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may make a loan under this paragraph of not more than \$50,000 without collateral.

“(ii) The Administrator may defer payment of principal and interest on a loan described in clause (i) during the longer of—

“(I) the 1-year period beginning on the date of the initial disbursement of the loan; and

“(II) the period during which the relevant essential employee is on active duty.”.

SEC. 4304. LOAN PRIORITY.

Section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)), as amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(H) The Administrator shall give priority to any application for a loan under this paragraph and shall process and make a determination regarding such applications prior to processing or making a determination on other loan applications under this subsection, on a rolling basis.”.

SEC. 4305. RELIEF FROM TIME LIMITATIONS FOR VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES.

Section 3(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

(5) RELIEF FROM TIME LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any time limitation on any qualification, certification, or period of participation imposed under this Act on any program available to small business concerns shall be extended for a small business concern that—

“(i) is owned and controlled by—

“(I) a veteran who was called or ordered to active duty under a provision of law specified in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, United States Code, on or after September 11, 2001; or

“(II) a service-disabled veteran who became such a veteran due to an injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the active military, naval, or air service during a period of active duty pursuant to a call or order to active duty under a provision of law referred to in subclause (I) on or after September 11, 2001; and

“(ii) was subject to the time limitation during such period of active duty.

“(B) DURATION.—Upon submission of proper documentation to the Administrator, the extension of a time limitation under subparagraph (A) shall be equal to the period of time that such veteran who owned or controlled such a concern was on active duty as described in that subparagraph.”.

SEC. 4306. SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) the types of assistance needed by service-disabled veterans who wish to become entrepreneurs; and

(2) any resources that would assist such service-disabled veterans.

SEC. 4307. STUDY ON OPTIONS FOR PROMOTING POSITIVE WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND THEIR RESERVE COMPONENT EMPLOYEES.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on options for promoting positive working relations between employers and Reserve component employees of such employers, including assessing options for improving the time in which employers of Reservists are notified of the call or order of such members to active duty other than for training.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide a quantitative and qualitative assessment of—

(i) what measures, if any, are being taken to inform Reservists of the obligations and responsibilities of such members to their employers;

(ii) how effective such measures have been; and

(iii) whether there are additional measures that could be taken to promote positive working relations between Reservists and their employers, including any steps that could be taken to ensure that employers are timely notified of a call to active duty; and

(B) assess whether there has been a reduction in the hiring of Reservists by business concerns because of—

(i) any increase in the use of Reservists after September 11, 2001; or

(ii) any change in any policy of the Department of Defense relating to Reservists after September 11, 2001.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

SA 3025. Mrs. CLINTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 604. EXTENSION AND ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITY FOR TEMPORARY LODGING EXPENSES FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN AREAS SUBJECT TO MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION OR FOR INSTALLATIONS EXPERIENCING SUDDEN INCREASE IN PERSONNEL LEVELS.

(a) MAXIMUM PERIOD OF RECEIPT OF EXPENSES.—Section 404a(c)(3) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking “20 days” and inserting “60 days”.

(b) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR INCREASE IN CERTAIN BAH.—Section 403(b)(7)(E) of such

title is amended by striking “December 31, 2008” and inserting “December 31, 2009”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2007.

SA 3026. Mr. OBAMA (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 876. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN MILITARY AND SECURITY CONTRACTING.

(a) REPORTS ON IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN CONTRACTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Interior, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the Director of National Intelligence shall each submit to Congress a report that contains the information, current as of the date of the enactment of this Act, as follows:

(1) The number of persons performing work in Iraq and Afghanistan under contracts (and subcontracts at any tier) entered into by departments and agencies of the United States Government, including the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, and the United States Agency for International Development, respectively.

(2) The companies awarded such contracts and subcontracts.

(3) The total cost of such contracts.

(4) The total number of persons who have been killed or wounded in performing work under such contracts.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORT ON STRATEGY FOR AND APPROPRIATENESS OF ACTIVITIES OF CONTRACTORS UNDER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONTRACTS IN IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, AND THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report setting forth the strategy of the Department of Defense for the use of, and a description of the activities being carried out by, contractors and subcontractors working in Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Department missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Global War on Terror, including its strategy for ensuring that such contracts do not—

(1) have private companies and their employees performing inherently governmental functions;

(2) place contractors in supervisory roles over United States Government personnel; or

(3) threaten the safety of contractor personnel or United States Government personnel.

SA 3027. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1070. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A DOMESTIC MILITARY AVIATION NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 31, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the feasibility of establishing a Domestic Military Aviation National Training Center (DMA-NTC) for current and future operational reconnaissance and surveillance missions of the National Guard that support local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) examine the current and past requirements of RC-26 aircraft in support of local, State, and Federal law enforcement and determine the number of aircraft required to provide such support for each State that borders Canada, Mexico, or the Gulf of Mexico;

(2) determine the number of military and civilian personnel required to run a RC-26 domestic training center meeting the requirements identified under paragraph (1); and

(3) determine the requirements and cost of locating such a training center at a military installation for the purpose of preempting and responding to security threats and responding to crises.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Adjutant General of each State that borders Canada, Mexico, or the Gulf of Mexico.

SA 3028. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1070. DEFINITION OF ALTERNATIVE FUELED VEHICLE.

Section 301(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13211(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(3) the term” and inserting the following:

“(3) ALTERNATIVE FUELED VEHICLE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘alternative fueled vehicle’ includes—

“(i) a new qualified fuel cell motor vehicle (as defined in section 30B(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986);

“(ii) a new advanced lean burn technology motor vehicle (as defined in section 30B(c)(3) of that Code);

“(iii) a new qualified hybrid motor vehicle (as defined in section 30B(d)(3) of that Code); and

“(iv) any other type of vehicle that the agency demonstrates to the Secretary would achieve a significant reduction in petroleum consumption.”.

SA 3029. Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe mili-

itary personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 358. REPORTS ON SAFETY MEASURES AND ENCROACHMENT ISSUES AT WARREN GROVE GUNNERY RANGE, NEW JERSEY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States Air Force has 32 training sites in the United States for aerial bombing and gunner training, of which Warren Grove Gunnery Range functions in the densely populated Northeast.

(2) A number of dangerous safety incidents caused by the Air National Guard have repeatedly impacted the residents of New Jersey, including the following:

(A) On May 15, 2007, a fire ignited during an Air National Guard practice mission at Warren Grove Gunnery Range, scorching 17,250 acres of New Jersey’s Pinelands, destroying 5 houses, significantly damaging 13 others, and temporarily displacing approximately 6,000 people from their homes in sections of Ocean and Burlington Counties.

(B) In November 2004, an F-16 Vulcan cannon piloted by the District of Columbia Air National Guard was more than 3 miles off target when it blasted 1.5-inch steel training rounds into the roof of the Little Egg Harbor Township Intermediate School.

(C) In 2002, a pilot ejected from an F-16 aircraft just before it crashed into the woods near the Garden State Parkway, sending large pieces of debris onto the busy highway.

(D) In 1999, a dummy bomb was dumped a mile off target from the Warren Grove target range in the Pine Barrens, igniting a fire that burned 12,000 acres of the Pinelands forest.

(E) In 1997, the pilots of F-16 aircraft uplifting from the Warren Grove Gunnery Range escaped injury by ejecting from their aircraft just before the planes collided over the ocean near the north end of Brigantine. Pilot error was found to be the cause of the collision.

(F) In 1986, a New Jersey Air National Guard jet fighter crashed in a remote section of the Pine Barrens in Burlington County, starting a fire that scorched at least 90 acres of woodland.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON SAFETY MEASURES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for two years, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on efforts made to provide the highest level of safety by all of the military departments utilizing the Warren Grove Gunnery Range.

(c) STUDY ON ENCROACHMENT AT WARREN GROVE GUNNERY RANGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a study on encroachment issues at Warren Grove Gunnery Range.

(2) CONTENT.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall include a master plan for the Warren Grove Gunnery Range and the surrounding community, taking into consideration military mission, land use plans, urban encroachment, the economy of the region, and protection of the environment and public health, safety, and welfare.

(3) REQUIRED INPUT.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall include input from all affected parties and relevant stakeholders at the Federal, State, and local level.

SA 3030. Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. HATCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2836. MODIFICATION OF LAND MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS APPLICABLE TO UTAH NATIONAL DEFENSE LANDS.

Section 2815 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106-65; 113 Stat. 852) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “that are adjacent to or near the Utah Test and Training Range and Dugway Proving Ground or beneath” and inserting “that are beneath”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) SUNSET DATE.—This section shall expire on October 1, 2013.”.

SA 3031. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 1064, insert the following:

SEC. 1065. IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PROCESS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SECURITY CLEARANCES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The process for issuing security clearances is an antiquated, paper-driven effort that costs thousands of dollars and requires hundreds of days to process one request for a security clearance.

(2) Years of promises to improve the process have resulted in no reduction in the amount of time and money required to process a request for a security clearance and such process is hopelessly backlogged.

(3) The inability of civilians, intelligence officers, military personnel, and contractors to perform their jobs due to delays in receiving a security clearance results in substantial costs every year and poses a significant threat to the national security of the United States.

(4) The Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence have begun to work together to improve the process for issuing security clearances and have established a team known as the “Tiger Team” to address problems in that process.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence should continue to work together to rapidly update the antiquated security clearance process using existing commercial technology and innovative new approaches to transform the process to the maximum extent possible; and

(2) funding for processing of requests for security clearances should be made available directly through appropriations of funds for

that purpose and not through a fee-for-service arrangement with the Office of Management and Budget or the Office of Personnel Management.

(c) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall implement multiple demonstration projects that apply new and innovative approaches to improve the processing of requests for security clearances. Each such project shall utilize proven commercial technologies and methods to the maximum extent possible.

(2) EXEMPTION FROM EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—No executive order that delegates responsibility for the issuance of security clearances to the personnel of the Office of Management and Budget shall apply to a demonstration project carried out under paragraph (1).

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a report on the status and progress of the demonstration projects carried out under paragraph (1).

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection.

(d) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR EVALUATION.—The Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall carry out an evaluation of the process for issuing security clearances and develop a specific plan and schedule for replacing such process with an improved process.

(2) REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a report on the evaluation carried out under paragraph (1) together with the plan developed under such paragraph.

SA 3032. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 531 and insert the following:

SEC. 531. SENSE OF SENATE ON FORGOING REVISIONS TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE RESERVE FORCES POLICY BOARD.

It is the sense of the Senate that, in light of the wide range of views on the optimal structure of the Reserve Forces Policy Board among the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Department of Defense, and the Reserve community, and in light of the absence of full and complete hearings in Congress on that structure, the Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense should not include revisions to the structure of the Reserve Forces Policy Board.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. KERRY. I would like to inform Members that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship will hold a hearing entitled “Improving Internet Access to Help Small Business Compete in a Global Economy,” on Wednesday, September 26, 2007, at 10 a.m., in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Monday, September 24, 2007, at 3 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The purpose of the hearing is to consider scientific assessments of the impacts of global climate change on wildfire activity in the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF TED POE TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE 62ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM DELAHUNT TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE 62ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Executive Session and the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from the following nominations: TED POE to be a representative of the United States to the 62nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and WILLIAM DELAHUNT to be a representative of the United States to the 62nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

Ted Poe, of Texas, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

William Delahunt, of Massachusetts, to be a Representative of the United States of

America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

CONDEMNING THE ASSASSINATION OF ANTOINE GHANEM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 328.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 328) condemning the assassination on September 19, 2007, of Antoine Ghanem, a member of the Parliament of Lebanon who opposed Syrian interference in Lebanon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, in the coming days there will be more funerals in Lebanon for fresh victims of despicable terror attacks. On Wednesday, September 19, 2007, Lebanese member of Parliament Antoine Ghanem and at least six others were killed in a massive car bomb attack in the suburbs of Beirut.

Tragically, this is an all-too-frequent occurrence for the people of Lebanon. The wave began with the February 14, 2005, assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and 21 others. On the 1-month anniversary of Prime Minister Hariri's assassination, something remarkable happened—hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Martyr's Square in downtown Beirut—spontaneously giving birth to the March 14 movement and the Cedar Revolution. Just 6 weeks after the March 14 movement began, the thousands of Syrian military forces that had occupied Lebanon for nearly three decades were out of the country.

But although the military occupation of Lebanon ended in 2005, Lebanon has remained under siege, as Wednesday's events remind us. Six Lebanese parliamentarians have now been killed in 2½ years. These six, and other prominent Lebanese figures who were also killed during the same period, shared one important attribute—they were outspoken critics of the Syrian domination of Lebanon.

Senator LUGAR, Senator SUNUNU and I are introducing a sense of the Senate resolution condemning the despicable assassination of Antoine Ghanem and urging that the international community continue its support for the government and people of Lebanon.

To the families of victims of Wednesday's attack and to the people of Lebanon, the Senate offers its deepest condolences for your losses. Wednesday's attack seeks to undermine the international tribunal set up earlier this