

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS OF CERTAIN PERSONS TO UNDERMINE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF LEBANON OR ITS DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AND INSTITUTIONS—PM 61

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication stating that the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of persons undermining the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic processes and institutions and certain other persons are to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2008.

The actions of certain persons to undermine Lebanon's legitimate and democratically elected government or democratic institutions, to contribute to the deliberate breakdown in the rule of law in Lebanon, including through politically motivated violence and intimidation, to reassert Syrian control or contribute to Syrian interference in Lebanon, or to infringe upon or undermine Lebanese sovereignty contribute to political and economic instability in that country and the region and constitute a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of persons undermining the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic processes and institutions and certain other persons.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 30, 2008.

NOTICE: CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS OF CERTAIN PERSONS TO UNDERMINE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF LEBANON OR ITS DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AND INSTITUTIONS

On August 1, 2007, by Executive Order 13441, I declared a national emergency and ordered related measures blocking the property of certain persons undermining the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic processes or institutions and certain other persons, pursuant to the International Emergency Eco-

nomics Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706). I took this action to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions of certain persons to undermine Lebanon's legitimate and democratically elected government or democratic institutions, to contribute to the deliberate breakdown in the rule of law in Lebanon, including through politically motivated violence and intimidation, to reassert Syrian control or contribute to Syrian interference in Lebanon, or to infringe upon or undermine Lebanese sovereignty which contributes to political and economic instability in that country and the region.

Because these actions continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on August 1, 2007, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond August 1, 2008. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13441.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, JULY 30, 2008.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:19 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4137) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; it agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints the following as managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Education and Labor, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. GEORGE MILLER of California, HINOJOSA, TIERNEY, WU, BISHOP of New York, ALTMIRE, YARMUTH, COURTNEY, ANDREWS, SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. HIRONO, Messrs. KELLER of Florida, PETRI, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Ms. FOXX, Messrs. KUHL of New York, WALBERG, CASTLE, SOUDER, EHLERS, Mrs. BIGGERT, and Mr. MCKEON.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of sections 951 and 952 of the House bill, and sections 951 and 952 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. GOHMERT.

From the Committee on Science and Technology, for consideration of sections 961 and 962 of the House bill, and section 804 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. GORDON of Tennessee, BAIRD, and NEUGEBAUER.

At 12:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2192. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an Ombudsman within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 2490. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a program in the maritime environment for the mobile biometric identification of suspected individuals, including terrorists, to enhance border security.

H.R. 6098. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the financial assistance provided to State, local, and tribal governments for information sharing activities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6113. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to require each agency to include contact information for the agency in its collection of information.

H.R. 6295. An act to enhance drug trafficking interdiction by creating a Federal felony relating to operating or embarking in a submersible or semi-submersible vessel without nationality and on an international voyage.

H.R. 6388. An act to provide additional authorities to the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6560. An act to establish an earned import allowance program under Public Law 109-53, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6580. An act to ensure the fair treatment of a member of the Armed Forces who is discharged from the Armed Forces, at the request of the member, pursuant to the Department of Defense policy permitting the early discharge of a member who is the only surviving child in a family in which the father or mother, or one or more siblings, served in the Armed Forces and, because of hazards incident to such service, was killed, died as a result of wounds, accident, or disease, is in a captured or missing in action status, or is permanently disabled, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the dollar limitation on contributions to funeral trusts, and for other purposes.

At 1:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3352. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 398. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:11 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 3352. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

At 6:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4040) to establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's products and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2192. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an Ombudsman within the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2490. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a pilot program for the mobile biometric identification in the maritime environment of aliens unlawfully attempting to enter the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 6098. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the financial assistance provided to State, local, and tribal governments for information sharing activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6113. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to require each agency to include a contact telephone number in its collection of information; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6388. An act to provide additional authorities to the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6560. An act to establish an earned import allowance program under Public Law 109-53, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3348. A bill to provide for the investigation of certain unsolved civil rights crimes, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on July 30, 2008, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 3352. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-422. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of

Louisiana urging Congress to enact legislation to establish a minimum sound level standard for all new automobiles sold in the United States to ensure the safety of the blind and other pedestrians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

Whereas, electric vehicles operate on batteries and are marketed as having the advantage of operating without the sound and smell of standard internal combustion engines, and hybrid vehicles combine conventional gas-powered engines with battery-powered electric motors and, when in the electric mode, also operate without making sound; and

Whereas, all pedestrians use the sound of traffic in combination with other techniques to travel safely, as evidenced by the fact that commercial trucks emit a sound when backing up to alert pedestrians to their presence; and

Whereas, blind people depend solely on the sound of traffic to determine the location of a traffic light and indication of whether a traffic light is red or green and whether an individual automobile is idling, accelerating, decelerating, or turning left or right, all of which allows a blind person to gauge the time to navigate a crosswalk and to travel independently and safely; and

Whereas, action must be taken to ensure that all vehicles emit a sound while turned on, and such a sound from all vehicles must be loud enough to be heard over the din of other ambient noise and be heard from a distance which would allow pedestrians to travel safely, and such a sound must be emitted both while the vehicle is in motion and while motionless, the sound must also change with speed, must not easily be disabled, must not be annoying but still emit a unique sound distinguishable from other noises, and must be uniform from model to model. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to ensure the safety of the blind and other pedestrians by passing legislation requiring the United States Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, to adopt regulations establishing a minimum sound level standard for all new automobiles sold in the United States. Be it further

Resolved, That the regulations adopted by the United States Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, need not prescribe the method automobile manufacturers must use to achieve the minimum sound standard, but the standard should have the following characteristics:

(1) In all phases of operation, including times when the vehicle is at a full stop, vehicles should be required to emit an omnidirectional sound with similar spectral characteristic of those of a modern internal combustion engine.

(2) The sound should vary in a way that is consistent with the sound of vehicles with combustion engines to indicate whether the vehicle is idling, maintaining a constant speed, accelerating, or decelerating. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-423. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to enact legisla-

tion to take such actions as are necessary to improve, modernize, and enhance drainage along the Jefferson Parish and Orleans Parish line, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 178

Whereas, since Hurricane Katrina local officials and drainage personnel have worked diligently with neighborhood civic associations, congress, and the Corp of Engineers to improve the safety of lives and property against hurricane overflow and rainfall flooding; and

Whereas, there is now a plan which is supported by local officials that can achieve these goals and benefit the residents and businesses that are dependent upon the Seventeenth Street Canal, Pump Station Number Six, and the Monticello Canal; and

Whereas, the locally preferred plan is comprised of four essential components as follows: improve the depth and efficiency of the Seventeenth Street Canal between existing Pump Station Number Six and Lake Pontchartrain to move rainwater more quickly to Lake Pontchartrain, build a new pumping station at the lake end of the Seventeenth Street Canal to replace the existing Pump Station Number Six and to prevent water from Lake Pontchartrain from entering the canal, supplement a new pump station at Lake Pontchartrain with a pipeline system and a separate pumping station that will discharge directly into the Mississippi River, rather than into the Seventeenth Street Canal and Lake Pontchartrain, and remove existing Pump Station Number Six from the system. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to implement the four essential components outlined in this Resolution in order to improve, modernize, and enhance drainage in Jefferson and Orleans parishes. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-424. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging Congress to enact the hearing aid assistance tax credit act; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 155

Whereas, hearing is clearly one of our most essential senses. It is often taken for granted, unfortunately, until the time one begins to experience hearing loss. At this point it is too late to reverse the damage. Hearing aids are the ready solution to the problems associated with hearing loss, but the costs associated with good quality equipment is expensive, is not always covered by one's insurance or Medicaid, and is too often foregone for more immediate needs. A federal tax credit would provide immediate and necessary relief for tens of thousands; and

Whereas, indeed, it has been estimated that hearing aids would help ninety-five percent of those suffering from hearing loss. Only twenty-two percent of the population, however, currently uses a hearing device, because the average out-of-pocket costs associated with hearing aids is over \$2,800. Thousands upon thousands of individuals and family members are impacted by these soaring costs. It is estimated that close to 2 million people are affected by untreated hearing loss; and

Whereas, in Michigan, legislation was enacted in 1978 to exempt hearing aids from the state sales tax. This initiative was a clear