

(45 U.S.C. 160) shall be extended until 12:01 a.m. on February 8, 2012, so that no change, except by agreement, shall be made by the rail carriers represented by the National Carriers' Conference Committee or by the employees of such carriers represented by labor organizations that are a party to such dispute, in the conditions out of which the dispute arose as such conditions existed prior to 12:01 a.m. on December 6, 2011.

By Mr. REID:

S.J. Res. 31. A joint resolution applying certain conditions to the dispute referred to in Executive Order 13586 of October 6, 2011, between the enumerated freight rail carriers, common carriers by rail in interstate commerce, and certain of their employees represented by labor organizations that have not agreed to extend the cooling-off period under section 10 of the Railway Labor Act beyond 12:01 a.m. on December 6, 2011; read the first time.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 31

Whereas the labor dispute between numerous rail carriers that are common carriers by rail in interstate commerce, and certain of their employees represented by labor organizations, threatens to interrupt essential freight rail services of the United States;

Whereas it is essential to the national interest that essential freight rail services be maintained;

Whereas Congress finds that emergency measures are essential to maintaining the security and continuity of freight rail services;

Whereas the President, by Executive Order 13586 of October 6, 2011, and pursuant to the provisions of section 10 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 160), created Presidential Emergency Board 243 to investigate the dispute and report findings;

Whereas the recommendations of the Emergency Board 243 issued on November 5, 2011, have been exhausted and have not resulted in settlement of the dispute;

Whereas Congress, under the Commerce Clause of the Constitution, has the authority and responsibility to ensure the uninterrupted operation of essential freight rail services; and

Whereas Congress has in the past enacted legislation for such purposes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REQUIRED CONDITIONS.

The following conditions shall apply to the dispute referred to in Executive Order 13586 of October 6, 2011, between the enumerated freight rail carriers, common carriers by rail in interstate commerce, and certain of their employees represented by labor organizations that have not agreed to extend the cooling-off period under section 10 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 160) beyond 12:01 a.m. on December 6, 2011:

(1) The parties to such dispute shall take all necessary steps to restore or preserve the conditions out of which such dispute arose as such conditions existed before 12:01 a.m. on December 6, 2011, except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) The report and recommendations of the Emergency Board 243 shall be binding on the

parties upon the enactment of this joint resolution and shall have the same effect as though arrived at by agreement of the parties under the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), except that nothing in this joint resolution shall prevent a mutual written agreement to any terms and conditions different from those established by this joint resolution.

(3)(A) If there are unresolved implementing issues remaining with respect to the report and recommendations or agreement under paragraph (2) after 10 days after the date of enactment of this joint resolution, the parties to the dispute shall enter into binding arbitration to provide for a resolution of such issues.

(B) The National Mediation Board established by section 4 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 154) shall appoint an arbitrator to resolve the issues described in subparagraph (A). Except as provided in this joint resolution, such arbitration shall be conducted as if it were under section 7 of such Act, and any award of such arbitration shall be enforceable as if under section 9 of such Act.

(4) Within thirty days after the date of enactment of this joint resolution, the binding arbitration entered into pursuant to paragraph (3) shall be completed.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 340—TO AMEND THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO PROHIBIT A MEMBER, OFFICER, OR EMPLOYEE OF THE SENATE FROM DISCLOSING OR USING ANY MATERIAL NONPUBLIC INFORMATION LEARNED DURING THE COURSE OF HIS OR HER SERVICE FOR PERSONAL GAIN

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 340

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE.

Rule XXXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by—

(1) redesignating paragraph 15 as paragraph 16; and

(2) inserting after paragraph 14 the following:

“15. A Member, officer, or employee of the Senate shall not disclose or use any material nonpublic information learned during the course of his or her service for personal gain.”

SENATE RESOLUTION 341—DESIGNATING THE FIRST FULL WEEK OF DECEMBER IN 2011 AS “NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE WEEK”

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BURR, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CANTWELL and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 341

Whereas Christmas trees are grown in all 50 States;

Whereas Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850;

Whereas Edward Johnson, assistant to Thomas Edison, came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees in 1882;

Whereas President Calvin Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony on the White House lawn in 1923;

Whereas there are close to 15,000 farms growing Christmas trees in the United States;

Whereas there are approximately 100,000 people employed full or part-time in the Christmas tree industry;

Whereas Christmas tree farms in the United States planted approximately 35,000,000 Christmas trees in 2011 to replace those harvested in 2010; and

Whereas growing Christmas trees preserves green space and small family-owned farms, provides habitats for wildlife, and sequesters carbon dioxide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first full week of December in 2011 as “National Christmas Tree Week”;

(2) encourages the celebration of Christmas trees during that week;

(3) recognizes the role Christmas trees have played in the history of the United States;

(4) reaffirms the environmental benefits of Christmas tree farms and recycled Christmas trees;

(5) encourages the recycling of Christmas trees after the holiday season; and

(6) celebrates the joy Christmas trees bring to families across the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1452. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1246 submitted by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill S. 1867, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 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 1453. Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1183 proposed by Mr. SESSIONS to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1454. Mr. JOHNSON, of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. THUNE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2354, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1452. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1246 by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill S. 1867, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 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 the amendment add the following:

SEC. 1088. COMMISSION ON REVIEW OF OVERSEAS MILITARY FACILITY STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Commission on the Review of the Overseas Military Facility Structure of the United States (in this section referred to as the “Commission”).

(2) COMPOSITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of eight members of whom—

(i) two shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;

(ii) two shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(iii) two shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

(iv) two shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—Individuals appointed to the Commission shall have significant experience in the national security or foreign policy of the United States.

(C) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—Appointments of the members of the Commission shall be made not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(D) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Commission shall select a Chairman and Vice Chairman from among its members.

(3) TENURE; VACANCIES.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(4) MEETINGS.—

(A) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meeting.

(B) CALLING OF THE CHAIRMAN.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairman.

(C) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(b) DUTIES.—

(1) STUDY OF OVERSEAS MILITARY FACILITY STRUCTURE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall conduct a thorough study of matters relating to the military facility structure of the United States overseas.

(B) SCOPE.—In conducting the study, the Commission shall—

(i) assess the number of forces required to be forward based outside the United States;

(ii) examine the current state of the military facilities and training ranges of the United States overseas for all permanent stations and deployed locations, including the condition of land and improvements at such facilities and ranges and the availability of additional land, if required, for such facilities and ranges;

(iii) identify the amounts received by the United States, whether in direct payments, in-kind contributions, or otherwise, from foreign countries by reason of military facilities of the United States overseas;

(iv) assess the feasibility and advisability of the closure or realignment of military facilities of the United States overseas, or of the establishment of new military facilities of the United States overseas;

(v) consider the findings of the February 2011 Government Accountability Office report, “Additional Cost Information and Stakeholder Input Necessary to Assess Military Posture in Europe”, GAO-11-131; and

(vi) consider or assess any other issue relating to military facilities of the United States overseas that the Commission considers appropriate.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after holding its final public hearing, the Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a report which shall contain a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Commission, together with its recommendations for such legislation and administrative actions as it considers appropriate.

(B) PROPOSED OVERSEAS BASING STRATEGY.—In addition to the matters specified in subparagraph (A), the report shall also include a proposal by the Commission for an overseas basing strategy for the Department of Defense in order to meet the current and future mission of the Department, taking into account heightened fiscal constraints.

(C) FOCUS ON PARTICULAR ISSUES.—The report shall focus on current and future geopolitical posturing, operational requirements, mobility, quality of life, cost, and synchronization with the combatant commands.

(c) POWERS.—

(1) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this section.

(2) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this section. Upon request of the Chairman of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—Upon request of the Commission, the Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support necessary for the Commission to carry out its duties under this section.

(4) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

(5) GIFTS.—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

(d) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission under this section. All members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

(2) TRAVEL.—

(A) EXPENSES.—Members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission under this section.

(B) MILITARY AIRCRAFT.—Members and staff of the Commission may receive transportation on military aircraft to and from the United States, and overseas, for purposes of the performance of the duties of the Commission to the extent that such transportation will not interfere with the requirements of military operations.

(3) STAFFING.—

(A) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Chairman of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties under this section. The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(B) STAFF.—The Commission may employ a staff to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties. The total number of the staff of the Commission, including an executive director under subparagraph (A), may not exceed 12.

(C) COMPENSATION.—The Chairman of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(4) DETAILS.—Any employee of the Department of Defense, the Department of State, or the Government Accountability Office may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(5) TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairman of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(e) SECURITY.—

(1) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—Members and staff of the Commission, and any experts and consultants to the Commission, shall possess security clearances appropriate for their duties with the Commission under this section.

(2) INFORMATION SECURITY.—The Secretary of Defense shall assume responsibility for the handling and disposition of any information relating to the national security of the United States that is received, considered, or used by the Commission under this section.

(f) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate 45 days after the date on which the Commission submits its report under subsection (b).

SA 1453. Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1183 proposed by Mr. SESSIONS to the bill S. 1867, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 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 the amendment, add the following:

SEC. 3104. AUTHORIZATION OF TRANSFER OF AMOUNTS FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), if the amount appropriated for the weapons activities of the National Nuclear Security Administration for fiscal year 2012 is less than the amount authorized to be appropriated for those activities for that fiscal year by this title, the Secretary of Defense may transfer, from amounts appropriated for

the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2012 pursuant to an authorization of appropriations under this Act, to the Secretary of Energy for the weapons activities of the National Nuclear Security Administration an amount up to \$125,000,000.

(b) **APPLICABILITY OF NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES.**—The transfer authorized under subsection (a) shall be subject to the notification procedures under section 1001 of this Act and section 8005 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2012.

(c) **TRANSFER AUTHORITY.**—The transfer authority provided under this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided under this Act.

SA 1454. Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. THUNE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2354, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title II of division A, at the end of the sections under the heading "GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR", add the following:

SEC. _____. Any funds available to carry out the Oglala Sioux Rural Water Supply System authorized by section 3(a) of the Mni Wiconi Project Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-516; 102 Stat. 2566; 108 Stat. 4539) shall also be available for the Secretary of the Interior to plan, design, construct, operate, maintain, and replace the Oglala Sioux Rural Water Supply System within the entire boundary of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, including the tract of land in the State of Nebraska set aside as part of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation by the Executive order dated February 20, 1904.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to H.R. 3012, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes, dated November 30, 2011.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 30, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session on November 30, 2011. The Committee will

meet in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building beginning at 10 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on November 30, 2011, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "A Balanced Budget Amendment: The Perils of Constitutionalizing the Budget Debate."

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 30, 2011, at 2 p.m., in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled: "Overprescribed: The Human and Taxpayers' Costs of Antipsychotics in Nursing Homes."

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Stefanie Peterson, an Air Force major who is a military fellow in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor during the debate on S. 1867.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FEDERAL COURTS JURISDICTION AND VENUE CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House with respect to H.R. 394.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following message:

H.R. 394

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment numbered 1 of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 394) entitled "An Act to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the jurisdiction of the Federal courts, and for other purposes," and be it further

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment numbered 2 of the Senate to the aforementioned bill, with the following House Amendment to Senate Amendment:

Add at the end of the Senate engrossed amendment numbered 2 the following:

Redesignate section 104 as section 105 and insert the following after section 103:

SEC. 104. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

Section 1446(g) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking "subsections (b) and (c)" and inserting "subsection (b) of this section and paragraph (1) of section 1455(b)".

Amend the table of contents of the House engrossed bill by striking the item relating to section 104 and inserting the following:

Sec. 104. Technical amendment.

Sec. 105. Effective date.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE WEEK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 341 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 341) designating the first full week of December in 2011 as "National Christmas Tree Week."

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

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any related statements be printed in the record as if read.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 341) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 341

Whereas Christmas trees are grown in all 50 States;

Whereas Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850;

Whereas Edward Johnson, assistant to Thomas Edison, came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees in 1882;

Whereas President Calvin Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony on the White House lawn in 1923;

Whereas there are close to 15,000 farms growing Christmas trees in the United States;

Whereas there are approximately 100,000 people employed full or part-time in the Christmas tree industry;

Whereas Christmas tree farms in the United States planted approximately 35,000,000 Christmas trees in 2011 to replace those harvested in 2010; and

Whereas growing Christmas trees preserves green space and small family-owned farms, provides habitats for wildlife, and sequesters carbon dioxide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first full week of December in 2011 as "National Christmas Tree Week";

(2) encourages the celebration of Christmas trees during that week;

(3) recognizes the role Christmas trees have played in the history of the United States;

(4) reaffirms the environmental benefits of Christmas tree farms and recycled Christmas trees;

(5) encourages the recycling of Christmas trees after the holiday season; and

(6) celebrates the joy Christmas trees bring to families across the United States.