

“(d) FORMULA.—Of the amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (c)—

“(1) 50 percent shall be allocated among eligible entities in the ratio that—

“(A) the number of ferry passengers carried by each ferry system in the most recent fiscal year; bears to

“(B) the number of ferry passengers carried by all ferry systems in the most recent fiscal year;

“(2) 25 percent shall be allocated among eligible entities in the ratio that—

“(A) the number of vehicles carried by each ferry system in the most recent fiscal year; bears to

“(B) the number of vehicles carried by all ferry systems in the most recent fiscal year; and

“(3) 25 percent shall be allocated among eligible entities in the ratio that—

“(A) the total route miles serviced by each ferry system; bears to

“(B) the total route miles serviced by all ferry systems.

“(e) FUNDING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) \$100,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2012 through 2013 to carry out this section.

“(2) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—Notwithstanding section 118(b), amounts apportioned to carry out this section shall remain available until expended.”

SEC. ____ . ELIGIBILITY OF FERRIES FOR CLEAN FUELS GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 5308 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting “, or ferries” before the semicolon at the end; and

(B) in clause (iii), by inserting “or ferries” before the semicolon at the end; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting “AND FERRIES” after “BUSES”; and

(B) by inserting “or ferries” before the period at the end.

SEC. ____ . FERRY JOINT PROGRAM OFFICE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish within the Department of Transportation a Ferry Joint Program Office (referred to in this section as the “Office”) for the purposes described in paragraph (2).

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Office shall be—

(A) to coordinate Federal programs affecting ferry and ferry facility construction, maintenance, operations, and security; and

(B) to promote transportation by ferry as a component of the United States transportation system.

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The head of the Office shall—

(1) coordinate programs related to ferry transportation carried out by—

(A) the Department of Transportation, including programs carried out by the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Maritime Administration, and the Research and Innovative Technology Administration;

(B) the Department of Homeland Security; and

(C) other Federal and State agencies, as appropriate;

(2) ensure resource accountability for programs carried out by the Secretary related to ferry transportation;

(3) provide strategic leadership for research, development, testing, and deployment of technologies related to ferry transportation;

(4) promote ferry transportation as a means to reduce social, economic, and environmental costs associated with traffic congestion; and

(5) develop energy efficient operating models to reduce carbon emissions associated with ferry transportation.

SEC. ____ . NATIONAL FERRY DATABASE.

Section 1801(e) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (23 U.S.C. 129 note; Public Law 109 59) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, including any Federal, State, and local government funding sources,” after “sources”; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D);

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B), the following:

“(C) ensure that the database is consistent with the national transit database maintained by the Federal Transit Administration; and”; and

(D) in subparagraph (D) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking “2009” and inserting “2018”.

SA 1734. Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 134, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

“(3) OLDER DRIVERS.—If the fatality and serious injury rates for drivers and pedestrians over the age of 65 in a State increases during the most recent 2-year period for which data are available, that State shall be required to file a corrective action based on the recommendations included in the publication of the Federal Highway Administration entitled ‘Highway Design Handbook for Older Drivers and Pedestrians’ (FHWA-RD-01-103), and dated May 2001, or any version of that publication that is revised and updated pursuant to section 103.

SA 1735. Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 469, after line 22, add the following:

SEC. 15 ____ . MILITARY FACILITIES LOCATED ON EVACUATION ROUTES.

Each State shall give priority consideration to improvements to evacuation routes and to the transportation needs of facilities operated by the armed forces (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code) located on or adjacent to evacuation routes when allocating funds apportioned to the State under title 23, United States Code, for the construction of Federal-aid highways.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, February 27, 2012, at 4:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 409; that there be 60 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or

debate on that nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that there be no further motions in order; that any related statements be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE 2012 WORLD CHOIR GAMES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further action on S. Res. 325.

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. 325) recognizing the 2012 World Choir Games in Cincinnati, Ohio, as a global event of cultural significance to the United States and expressing support for designation of July 2012 as World Choir Games Month in the United States.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 325) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 325

Whereas the World Choir Games, the largest choral competition in the world, takes place every 2 years, is known as the “Olympics of choral music”, and has the goal of uniting people from all countries through singing in peaceful competition;

Whereas, from July 4 through July 14, 2012, Cincinnati, Ohio, will be first city in the United States to host the World Choir Games;

Whereas the Seventh World Choir Games are expected to include more than 400 choirs from more than 70 countries, 20,000 official participants, including performers, event officials, delegations, and international jury members, and up to 200,000 spectators;

Whereas choirs will compete in 23 different musical genres evaluated by an impartial international jury of choral music experts;

Whereas the genres of barbershop and show choir will be added as competition categories for the first time in recognition of their popularity in the United States;

Whereas the uniting of the people of the world through singing in peaceful competition in the United States in 2012 affirms the commitment of the United States to global cultural awareness, understanding, and appreciation; and

Whereas it is appropriate to designate July 2012 as World Choir Games Month in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the global significance of the Seventh World Choir Games to be hosted in Cincinnati, Ohio, from July 4 through July 14, 2012;

(2) recognizes Interkultur, the Cincinnati Organizing Committee for the Seventh World Choir Games, the Cincinnati USA Convention and Visitors Bureau, the city of Cincinnati, and the State of Ohio for their efforts to secure and host the World Choir Games;

(3) expresses appreciation to all people of the world who will participate in the World Choir Games, either in competition or as visitors, and to all of the volunteers who will welcome the participants and other visitors to the United States;

(4) supports the designation of July 2012 as World Choir Games Month in the United States; and

(5) renews the commitment of the United States to world peace and friendship and increasing global cultural understanding through singing in peaceful competition.

CONDEMNING VIOLENCE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA AGAINST THE SYRIAN PEOPLE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 325, S. Res. 379.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 379) condemning violence by the Government of Syria against the Syrian people.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

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

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that from Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 27, 2012, the majority leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

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

CONDEMNING VIOLENCE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA AGAINST THE SYRIAN PEOPLE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if we could return to Calendar No. 325, S. Res. 379,

I ask unanimous consent the action just taken be vitiated.

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

Mr. REID. We are still on that matter; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are still on that matter.

The question is on agreeing to the resolution and its preamble.

The resolution (S. Res. 379) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 379

Whereas the Syrian Arab Republic is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), adopted at New York December 16, 1966, the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York December 10, 1984;

Whereas Syria voted in favor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted at Paris, December 10, 1948;

Whereas, in March 2011, peaceful demonstrations in Syria began against the authoritarian rule of Bashar al-Assad;

Whereas, in response to the demonstrations, the Government of Syria launched a brutal crackdown, which has resulted in gross human rights violations, use of force against civilians, torture, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary executions, sexual violence, and interference with access to medical treatment;

Whereas the United Nations, as of January 25, 2012, estimated that more than 5,400 people in Syria have been killed since the violence began in March 2011;

Whereas, on February 4, 2012, President Barack Obama stated that President Bashar al-Assad "has no right to lead Syria, and has lost all legitimacy with his people and the international community";

Whereas the Department of State has repeatedly condemned the Government of Syria's crackdown on its people, including on January 30, 2012, when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated "The status quo is unsustainable . . . The longer the Assad regime continues its attacks on the Syrian people and stands in the way of a peaceful transition, the greater the concern that instability will escalate and spill over throughout the region.";

Whereas President Obama, on April 29, 2011, designated 3 individuals subject to sanctions for human rights abuses in Syria: Maher al-Assad, the brother of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and brigade commander in the Syrian Army's 4th Armored Division; Atif Najib, the former head of the Political Security Directorate for Daraa Province and a cousin of Bashar al-Assad; and Ali Mamluk, director of Syria's General Intelligence Directorate;

Whereas, on May 18, 2011, President Obama issued an executive order sanctioning senior officials of the Syrian Arab Republic and their supporters, specifically designating 7 people: President Bashar al-Assad, Vice President Farouk al-Shara, Prime Minister Adel Safar, Minister of the Interior Mohammad Ibrahim al-Shaar, Minister of Defense Ali Habib Mahmoud, Head of Syrian Military Intelligence Abdul Fatah Qudsiya, and Director of Political Security Directorate Mohammed Dib Zaitoun;

Whereas President Obama, on August 17, 2011, issued Executive Order 13582, blocking property of the Government of Syria and prohibiting certain transactions with respect to Syria;

Whereas, on December 1, 2011, the Department of the Treasury designated 2 individuals, Aus Aslan and Muhammad Makhluuf, under Executive Order 13573 and 2 entities, the Military Housing Establishment and the Real Estate Bank of Syria, under Executive Order 13582;

Whereas, on May 6, 2011, the European Union's 27 countries imposed sanctions on the Government of Syria for the human rights abuses, including asset freezes and visa bans on members of the Government of Syria and an arms embargo on the country;

Whereas, on November 12, 2011, the League of Arab States voted to suspend Syria's membership in the organization;

Whereas, on December 2, 2011, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed Resolution S-18/1, which deplores the human rights situation in Syria, commends the League of Arab States, and supports implementation of its Plan of Action;

Whereas the League of Arab States approved and implemented a plan of action to send a team of international monitors to Syria, which began December 26, 2011;

Whereas, on January 28, 2012, the League of Arab States decided to suspend its international monitoring mission due to escalating violence within Syria;

Whereas, on February 4, 2012, the Russian Federation and People's Republic of China vetoed a United Nations Security Council Resolution in support of the League of Arab States' Plan of Action;

Whereas, on February 14, 2012, General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate that Syria "is a much different situation than we collectively saw in Libya," presenting a "very different challenge" in which "we also know that other regional actors are providing support" as a part of a "Sunni majority rebelling against an oppressive Alawite-Shia regime";

Whereas the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran remain major suppliers of military equipment to the Government of Syria notwithstanding that government's violent repression of demonstrators;

Whereas the gross human rights violations perpetuated by the Government of Syria against the people of Syria represent a grave risk to regional peace and stability; and

Whereas the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate will immediately schedule a hearing to take place as soon as the Senate reconvenes to assess the situation in Syria and all the international options available to address this crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) strongly condemns the Government of Syria's brutal and unjustifiable use of force against civilians, including unarmed women and children and its violations of the fundamental human rights and dignity of the people of Syria;

(2) expresses its solidarity with the people of Syria, who have exhibited remarkable courage and determination in the face of unspeakable violence to rid themselves of a brutal dictatorship;

(3) expresses strong disappointment with the Governments of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China for their veto of the United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Bashar al-Assad and the violence in Syria and urges them to reconsider their votes;

(4) encourages the members of the United Nations Security Council to continue to pursue a resolution in support of a political solution to the crisis in Syria;