

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1503 of title 5, United States Code, is repealed.

(B) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 15 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1503.

SEC. 3. APPLICABILITY OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO STATE AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) STATE OR LOCAL AGENCY.—Section 1501(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, or the District of Columbia, or an agency or department thereof” before the semicolon.

(b) STATE OR LOCAL OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE.—Section 1501(4) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) an individual employed by an educational or research institution, establishment, agency, or system which is supported in whole or in part by—

“(i) a State or political subdivision thereof;

“(ii) the District of Columbia; or

“(iii) a recognized religious, philanthropic, or cultural organization.”

(c) MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD ORDERS.—Section 1506(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “(or in the case of the District of Columbia, in the District of Columbia)” after “the same State”.

(d) PROVISIONS RELATING TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES MADE INAPPLICABLE.—Section 7322(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by adding “or” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or” at the end;

(3) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(4) by striking “services;” and inserting “services or an individual employed or holding office in the government of the District of Columbia;”.

SEC. 4. HATCH ACT PENALTIES FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

Chapter 73 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking section 7326 and inserting the following:

“§ 7326. Penalties

“An employee or individual who violates section 7323 or 7324 shall be subject to removal, reduction in grade, debarment from Federal employment for a period not to exceed 5 years, suspension, reprimand, or an assessment of a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000.”

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) APPLICABILITY RULE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendment made by section 4 shall apply with respect to any violation occurring before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The amendment made by section 4 shall not apply with respect to an alleged violation if, before the effective date of this Act—

(A) the Special Counsel has presented a complaint for disciplinary action, under section 1215 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to the alleged violation; or

(B) the employee alleged to have committed the violation has entered into a signed settlement agreement with the Special Counsel with respect to the alleged violation.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2172. A bill to remove the limit on the anticipated award price for contracts awarded under the procurement program for women-owned small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today, at the onset of Women's History Month, along with my colleagues Senators GILLIBRAND, LANDRIEU, BENNET, SHAHEEN, MIKULSKI, and MURKOWSKI to introduce the Fairness in Women-Owned Small Business Contracting Act. The purpose of the bill is to remove inequities that exist in the women-owned small business contracting program, when compared to other socio-economic programs.

As former Chair and now Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I have long championed women entrepreneurship and have urged both past and present Administrations to implement the woman-owned small business, WOSB, Federal contracting program, which was enacted into law 10 years ago. On March 4, 2010, the Small Business Administration, SBA, finally proposed a workable rule to implement the women's procurement program. I am pleased to report that today there is a functional WOSB contracting program, however, the program lacks the critical elements that the SBA's 8(a), historically underutilized business zones, and the service-disabled veteran-owned government contracting programs include.

To remedy this, our bipartisan bill will help provide tools women need to compete fairly in the Federal contracting arena by allowing for receipt of non-competitive contracts, when circumstances allow. Moreover, the legislation would eliminate a restriction on the dollar amount of a contract that a WOSB can compete for, thus putting them on a level playing field with the other socio-economic contracting programs.

Women-owned small businesses have yet to receive their fair share of the Federal marketplace. In fact, our government has never achieved its goal of five percent of contracts going to WOSBs, achieving only 4.04 percent in fiscal year 2010. Our bill would greatly assist Federal agencies in achieving the small business goaling requirement for WOSBs.

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

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

S. 2172

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Fairness in Women-Owned Small Business Contracting Act of 2012”.

SEC. 2. PROCUREMENT PROGRAM FOR WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

Section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “who are economically disadvantaged”;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “paragraph (3)” and inserting “paragraph (4)”;

(C) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(D) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS.—A contracting officer may award a sole source contract under this subsection to a small business concern owned and controlled by women under the same conditions as a sole source contract may be awarded to a qualified HUBZone small business concern under section 31(b)(2)(A).”

SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT ON REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN.

Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(o) STUDY AND REPORT ON REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN.—

“(1) STUDY.—The Administrator shall periodically conduct a study to identify any United States industry, as defined under the North American Industry Classification System, in which women are underrepresented.

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator 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 on the results of each study under paragraph (1) conducted during the 5-year period ending on the date of the report.”

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 390—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE DONALD M. PAYNE

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 390

Whereas the Honorable Donald M. Payne was born in Newark, New Jersey on July 16, 1934, graduated from Barringer High School in Newark and Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, and pursued graduate studies at Springfield College in Massachusetts;

Whereas the Honorable Donald M. Payne was an educator in the Newark and Passaic, New Jersey public schools and was an executive at Prudential Financial and at Urban Data Systems Inc;

Whereas the Honorable Donald M. Payne became the first African American national president of the YMCA in 1970 and served as Chairman of the World Refugee and Rehabilitation Committee of the YMCA from 1973 to 1981;

Whereas the Honorable Donald M. Payne served 3 terms on the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders and 3 terms on the Newark Municipal Council;

Whereas, in 1988, the Honorable Donald M. Payne became the first African American elected to the United States House of Representatives from the State of New Jersey;

Whereas the people of New Jersey overwhelmingly reelected the Honorable Donald M. Payne 11 times, most recently in 2010, when the Honorable Donald M. Payne was elected to represent the Tenth Congressional District of New Jersey for a 12th term;

Whereas the Honorable Donald M. Payne was a tireless advocate for his constituents, bringing significant economic development to Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties in New Jersey;

Whereas, as a senior member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Donald M. Payne was a leading advocate for public schools, college affordability, and workplace protections;

Whereas, as a senior member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, and a member of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, the Honorable Donald M. Payne led efforts to restore democracy and human rights around the world, including in Northern Ireland and Sudan;

Whereas the Honorable Donald M. Payne was a leader in the field of global health, co-founding the Malaria Caucus, and helping to secure passage of a bill authorizing \$50,000,000 for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria;

Whereas the Honorable Donald M. Payne served as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and previously as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus;

Whereas, in March 2012, the United States Agency for International Development launched the Donald M. Payne Fellowship Program to attract outstanding young people to careers in international development;

Whereas the Honorable Donald M. Payne served on the boards of directors of the National Endowment for Democracy, TransAfrica, the Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership, the Congressional Award Foundation, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Newark, the Newark Day Center, and the Newark YMCA;

Whereas the Honorable Donald M. Payne was the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including honorary doctorates from multiple universities;

Whereas the Honorable Donald M. Payne passed away on March 6, 2012, and is survived by 3 children, 4 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild; and

Whereas the Honorable Donald M. Payne's long history of service will have an enduring impact on people in New Jersey, across the United States, and around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses profound sorrow at the death of the Honorable Donald M. Payne, United States Representative for the Tenth Congressional District of New Jersey;

(2) conveys the condolences of the Senate to the family of the Honorable Donald M. Payne; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the House of Representatives and the family of the Honorable Donald M. Payne.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1809. Mr. GRASSLEY 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.

SA 1810. Mr. CORKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1811. Mr. BINGAMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1812. Ms. STABENOW submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1813. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1814. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1815. Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1816. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1761 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1817. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1818. Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. CONRAD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1819. Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1761 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1820. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1821. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1822. Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1823. Mr. REID (for Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Ms. COLLINS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1855, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize various programs under the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1809. Mr. GRASSLEY 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:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE V—BANKRUPTCY VENUE REFORM SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Venue Reform Act of 2012”.

SEC. 502. AMENDMENTS.

Section 1408 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a)” before “Except”,

(2) by inserting “and subsection (b) of this section” after “this title”, and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) A case under chapter 11 of title 11 in which the person that is the subject of the

case is a corporation may be commenced only in the district court for the district—

“(1) in which the principal place of business in the United States, or principal assets in the United States, of such corporation have been located for 1 year immediately preceding such commencement, or for a longer portion of such 1-year period than the principal place of business in the United States, or principal assets in the United States, of such corporation were located in any other district; or

“(2) in which there is pending a case under chapter 11 of title 11 concerning an affiliate of such corporation, if the affiliate in such pending case directly or indirectly owns, controls, or holds with power to vote more than 50 percent of the outstanding voting securities of such corporation.”.

SEC. 503. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this title and the amendments made by this title shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.—The amendments made by this title shall apply only with respect to cases commenced under title 11 of the United States Code on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 1810. Mr. CORKER 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:

At the end of subtitle E of title I of division A, add the following:

SEC. . LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Secretary determines for any fiscal year that the estimated governmental receipts required to carry out transportation programs and projects under this Act and amendments made by this Act (as projected by the Secretary of the Treasury) does not produce a positive balance in the Highway Trust Fund available for those programs and projects for the fiscal year, each amount made available for such a program or project shall be reduced by the pro rata percentage required to reduce the aggregate amount required to carry out those programs and projects to an amount equal to that available for those programs and projects in the Highway Trust Fund for the fiscal year.

SA 1811. Mr. BINGAMAN 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 ____, between lines ____ and ____, insert the following:

SEC. . APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGREEMENT.—The term “Agreement” means the Agreement and appendices signed by the United States and the Republic of Palau on September 3, 2010.

(2) COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION.—The term “Compact of Free Association” means the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Palau (48 U.S.C. 1931 note; Public Law 99-658).

(b) RESULTS OF COMPACT REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title I of Public Law 99-658 (48 U.S.C. 1931 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following: