

EC-5567. A communication from the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Annual Report on The Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act for fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5568. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-321, "Car Wash Employee Overtime Amendment Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5569. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-322, "Lottery Amendment Repeal Amendment Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5570. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-323, "Moratorium on Establishments Which Permit Nude Dancing Temporary Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5571. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-327, "Workforce Job Development Grant-Making Authority Temporary Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5572. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-328, "Board of Elections and Ethics Electoral Process Improvement Amendment Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5573. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-329, "Unemployed Anti-Discrimination Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5574. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-330, "Civil Marriage Dissolution Equality Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5575. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-331, "DDOT Omnibus Conforming Temporary Amendment Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5576. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-332, "Unemployment Compensation Funds Appropriation Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5577. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-333, "Targeted Retirement Distribution Withholding Temporary Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5578. A communication from the Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Railroad Retirement Board's fiscal year 2011 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5579. A communication from the Director, Facilities Services Directorate, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Facilities Services Directorate/Pentagon Renovation and Construction Program Office (PENREN) annual report; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5580. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Council's 2011 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5581. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Devices; Neurological Devices; Classification of the Near Infrared Brain Hematoma Detector" (Docket No. FDA-2012-M-0206) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 29, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5582. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding Between the Food and Drug Administration and Other Departments, Agencies, and Organizations" (Docket No. FDA-2012-N-0205) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 29, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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-68. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to ensure that amounts credited to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are used solely for the dredging, infrastructure, operation, and maintenance of federally authorized ports, harbors, and waterways; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 97

Whereas, domestic shippers and importers using Great Lakes and coastal ports pay more than a billion dollars per year in federal harbor maintenance taxes. Congress established the tax to fund harbor operation and maintenance, particularly dredging, at these ports; and

Whereas, despite a nearly \$6 billion balance in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, our nation's dredging needs are not being met. Throughout our nation and particularly in the Great Lakes region, the lack of dredging has forced shippers to operate inefficiently and carry lighter loads, costing them millions of dollars each year; and

Whereas, the Obama Administration has only budgeted about half of the revenue collected through the harbor maintenance tax for maintaining our nation's harbors. Last year, nearly \$1.5 billion were collected from shippers, but only \$758 million has been allocated for dredging harbors in Michigan and other coastal states; and

Whereas, during the current turbulent economic conditions, we must make every effort to support economic activity by maintaining the infrastructure necessary for commerce. Essentially by, using harbor maintenance taxes placed in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to finance and balance other por-

tions of the federal budget, we are breaking our promise to the shippers paying the tax and hurting our nation's economic recovery; and

Whereas, current congressional legislation (H.R. 104 and S. 412) would ensure that harbor maintenance taxes are only used for their intended purpose to maintain our nation's harbors; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to ensure that amounts credited to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are used solely for the dredging, infrastructure, operation, and maintenance of federally-authorized ports, harbors, and waterways; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-69. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing a request for an amendments convention to be called for the purpose of proposing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution which shall provide that an increase in the federal debt requires approval from a majority of the legislatures of the separate states; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 87

Whereas, Article V of the Constitution of the United States provides authority for a convention to be called by the Congress of the United States for the purpose of proposing amendments to the constitution upon application of two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states, an "amendments convention"; and

Whereas, the legislature of the state of Louisiana favors the proposal and ratification of an amendment to said constitution which shall provide that an increase in the federal debt requires approval from a majority of the legislatures of the separate states. therefore, be it

Resolved, Section 1. That, as provided for in Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the legislature of the state of Louisiana herewith respectfully applies for an amendments convention to be called for the purpose of proposing an amendment which shall provide that an increase in the federal debt requires approval from a majority of the legislatures of the separate states.

Section 2. That the amendments convention contemplated by this application shall be entirely focused upon and exclusively limited to the subject matter of proposing for ratification an amendment to the constitution providing that an increase in the federal debt requires approval from a majority of the legislatures of the separate States.

Section 3. This application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until at least two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states have made application for an equivalently limited amendments convention.

Section 4. That a certified copy of this application be dispatched by the secretary of state (or other responsible constitutional officer) to the president of the United States Senate, to the speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the applicant's delegation to the United States Congress, and to the presiding officers of each house of the several state legislatures, requesting their cooperation in applying for the amendments convention limited to the subject matter contemplated by this application.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 2297. A bill to promote the development of the Southwest waterfront in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112–09154).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2159. A bill to extend the authorization of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program through fiscal year 2017.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Christy L. Romero, of Virginia, to be Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

*Richard B. Berner, of Massachusetts, to be Director, Office of Financial Research, Department of the Treasury, for a term of six years.

*Jeremy C. Stein, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2004.

*Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2000.

*Jeremiah O'Hear Norton, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for the remainder of the term expiring July 15, 2013.

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Gregory K. Davis, of Mississippi, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi for the term of four years.

Richard Gary Taranto, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit.

Gershwin A. Drain, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Robin S. Rosenbaum, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2250. A bill to prevent homeowners from being forced to pay taxes on forgiven mort-

gage loan debt; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2251. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 709 West 9th Street, Juneau, Alaska, as the Robert Booechever United States Courthouse; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2252. A bill to rebuild the American middle class by creating jobs, investing in our future, building opportunity for working families, and restoring balance to the tax code; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2253. A bill to require individuals who file under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to disclose any financial accounts that are or have been deposited in a country that is a tax haven; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2254. A bill to direct the Attorney General to establish uniform standards for the exchange of controlled substance and prescription information for the purpose of preventing diversion, fraud, and abuse of controlled substances and other prescription drugs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2255. A bill to amend chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, to add Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day as a patriotic and National observance; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2256. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for community-based mental health infrastructure improvement; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. REED):

S. 2257. A bill to increase access to community behavioral health services for all Americans and to improve Medicaid reimbursement for community behavioral health services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mrs. LANDRIEU, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. CORKER):

S. 2258. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the rule providing 5-year amortization of expenses incurred in creating or acquiring music or music copyrights; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BURR, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. WEBB, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2259. A bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2012, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2260. A bill to allow taxpayers the opportunity to specify their choice of Federal budget priorities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 2261. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to estab-

lish a revenue loss assistance program, repeal the direct payment and ACRE programs, extend commodity programs through 2017, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 2262. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome prevention and services program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Ohio):

S. 2263. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to establish the National Program for Arts and Technology Act as a Federal program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. JOHANNES):

S. 2264. A bill to provide liability protection for claims based on the design, manufacture, sale, offer for sale, introduction into commerce, or use of certain fuels and fuel additives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2265. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to cover screening computed tomography colonography as a colorectal cancer screening test under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURR:

S. 2266. A bill to improve sharing of immigration information among Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials, to improve State and local enforcement of immigration laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2267. A bill to reauthorize the Hudson Valley National Heritage Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2268. A bill to ensure that all items offered for sale in any gift shop of the National Park Service or of the National Archives and Records Administration are produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2269. A bill to permit voluntary economic activity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 2270. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve energy programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2271. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the time for making S corporation elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2272. A bill to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Mount Denali; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2273. A bill to designate the Talkeetna Ranger Station in Talkeetna, Alaska, as the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. CONRAD):