

the session of the Senate on April 19, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 19, 2012, at 10 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled, "Syria: U.S. Policy Options."

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

#### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 19, 2012, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "S. 1684, the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2011."

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

#### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Time Takes Its Toll: Delays in OSHA's Standard-Setting Process and the Impact on Worker Safety" on April 19, 2012, at 10 a.m., in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on April 19, 2012, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

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

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on April 19, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

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

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, April 23, at 5 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 528; that there be 30 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote, with no intervening action or debate, on Calendar No. 528; that the motion to

reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TEMPORARY BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIPS EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1021.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1021) to prevent the termination of the temporary office of bankruptcy judges in certain judicial districts.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I congratulate Senator COONS on the passage of legislation that will reauthorize 30 temporary bankruptcy judgeships in districts around the country. I was pleased to support Senator COONS' very strong and persistent efforts on this important legislation. The Judiciary Committee reported this legislation favorably on December 15, 2011. I am glad to see the Senate finally being allowed to act.

The bill we pass today, when enacted, will reauthorize 30 temporary judgeships in 14 States and Puerto Rico. All of these positions have already expired, and without this legislation, upon retirement or departure of the judges in these positions, they could not be filled again. Needless to say, reducing the resources of our bankruptcy courts does nothing but put more pressure on Americans who are already navigating a difficult economic environment. This legislation should help avoid that and provide some small degree of relief to overburdened bankruptcy courts around the country. Quite frankly, I think we should be doing more.

As Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I will note one concern with the legislation the Senate passes today. In order to secure passage of this legislation, Senator COBURN insisted upon adding a section to the bill that purports to tell future Senate and House Judiciary Committees how to conduct their business. Senator COBURN's amendment would dictate that before any of these 30 judgeships could be reauthorized again, the Senate and House Judiciary Committee's would be required to take certain steps and require a report from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AO). As a member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator COBURN knows this is precisely what committees do in the ordinary course of the consideration of legislation, and what

was done during the development of this legislation. Senator COONS worked with the AO, which made recommendations, and with bankruptcy judges in a variety of districts to determine where need was greatest. To codify an unenforceable mandate nominally imposed on future Congresses is unnecessary and unwise.

I thank and congratulate Senator COONS for his hard work and attention to this issue. This would not be passing without his diligence, focus, and legislative skill. He has done what has seemed impossible.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that a Coons amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the bill as amended be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 2084) was agreed to, as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2084

(Purpose: To address bankruptcy filing fee increases, future reauthorizations, and for other purposes)

Strike section 3 and insert the following:

#### SEC. 3. BANKRUPTCY FILING FEE INCREASE.

(a) BANKRUPTCY FILING FEES.—Section 1930(a)(3) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking "\$1,000" and inserting "\$1,167".

(b) UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND.—Section 589a(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking "55" and inserting "48.89".

(c) COLLECTION AND DEPOSIT OF MISCELLANEOUS BANKRUPTCY FEES.—Section 406(b) of the Judiciary Appropriations Act, 1990 (28 U.S.C. 1931 note) is amended by striking "25" and inserting "33.33".

(d) PAYGO OFFSET EXPENDITURE LIMITATION.—\$42 of the incremental amounts collected by reason of the enactment of subsection (a) shall be deposited in a special fund in the Treasury to be established after the date of enactment of this Act. Such amounts shall be available for the purposes specified in section 1931(a) of title 28, United States Code, but only to the extent specifically appropriated by an Act of Congress enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 4. SUBSEQUENT REAUTHORIZATION.

Prior to further reauthorization of any judgeship authorized by this Act, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives shall conduct a review of the bankruptcy judgeships authorized by this Act to determine the need, if any, for continued reauthorization of each judgeship, to evaluate any changes in all bankruptcy case filings and their effect, if any, on filing fee revenue, and to require the Administrative Office of the Courts to submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives on bankruptcy case workload, bankruptcy judgeship costs, and filing fee revenue.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 1021), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

H.R. 1021

*Resolved*, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 1021) entitled "An Act to prevent the termination of the temporary office of bankruptcy judges in certain judicial districts.", do pass with the following amendment:

Strike section 3 and insert the following:

**SEC. 3. BANKRUPTCY FILING FEE INCREASE.**

(a) *BANKRUPTCY FILING FEES.*—Section 1930(a)(3) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking "\$1,000" and inserting "\$1,167".

(b) *UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND.*—Section 589a(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking "55" and inserting "48.89".

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(d) *PAYGO OFFSET EXPENDITURE LIMITATION.*—\$42 of the incremental amounts collected by reason of the enactment of subsection (a) shall be deposited in a special fund in the Treasury to be established after the date of enactment of this Act. Such amounts shall be available for the purposes specified in section 1931(a) of title 28, United States Code, but only to the extent specifically appropriated by an Act of Congress enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 4. SUBSEQUENT REAUTHORIZATION.**

Prior to further reauthorization of any judgeship authorized by this Act, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives shall conduct a review of the bankruptcy judgeships authorized by this Act to determine the need, if any, for continued reauthorization of each judgeship, to evaluate any changes in all bankruptcy case filings and their effect, if any, on filing fee revenue, and to require the Administrative Office of the Courts to submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives on bankruptcy case workload, bankruptcy judgeship costs, and filing fee revenue.

**RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF DUCKS UNLIMITED, INCORPORATED**

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to S. Res. 430.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 430) recognizing the 75th anniversary of the founding of Ducks Unlimited, Incorporated, the achievements of the organization in habitat conservation, and the support of the organization for the waterfowl heritage of 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. 430) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 430

Whereas Ducks Unlimited, Incorporated (referred to in this preamble as "Ducks Unlimited") was founded in 1937, when the drought-plagued waterfowl populations of North America plunged to unprecedented lows;

Whereas, after decades of commitment to conserving waterfowl habitats, Ducks Unlimited has become the largest private organization for waterfowl and wetlands conservation worldwide and one of the most effective private organizations dedicated to that cause;

Whereas, since the founding of Ducks Unlimited, the organization has conserved and protected more than 4,500,000 acres of waterfowl habitat in the United States and more than 12,600,000 acres of waterfowl habitat in North America;

Whereas Ducks Unlimited has nearly 750,000 members internationally, including 550,000 members in the United States;

Whereas, since the founding of Ducks Unlimited, the organization has raised more than \$3,400,000,000 for waterfowl conservation and education, leveraging public support to obtain more than half of its contributions from private sources;

Whereas Ducks Unlimited provides support to local projects that are important to waterfowlers in each State of the United States; and

Whereas Ducks Unlimited maintains the vital mission of conserving, restoring, and managing wetlands and associated habitats for the waterfowl of North America, a mission that also benefits other wildlife and people: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes the important contributions of Ducks Unlimited, Incorporated and its members across the United States to the conservation of habitats and the preservation of the waterfowl of North America during the past 75 years.

**ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2012**

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until Monday, April 23, at 12 noon; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the Senate then resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1925; that at 2 p.m., the Republican leader or his designee be recognized to make a motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 36, which would be under a previous order that has already been entered; further, that at 4 p.m., the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1925; and, finally, at 5 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

**THANKING THE PRESIDING OFFICER**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, I say to the Presiding Officer, thank you very much for your patience. We often need patience, so I appreciate yours.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1789

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that in the previous order with respect to S. 1789 and the Akaka amendment No. 2034 the reference to the modification of the Akaka amendment No. 2034 be stricken.

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

**MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2327**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a bill at the desk due for its first reading.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2327) to prohibit direct foreign assistance to the Government of Egypt until the President makes certain certifications related to treatment of nongovernmental organization workers, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

**PROGRAM**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, there will be a rollcall vote on confirmation of the Wimes nomination.

This evening we reached an agreement to complete action on the postal reform bill. On Monday there will be time from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and following the vote at 5:30 p.m. for Senators to debate their amendments to the bill.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2012**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:16 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 23, 2012, at 12 noon.