

EC-2411. A communication from the Deputy Director, Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Developmental Disabilities Program" (RIN0970-AB11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2412. A communication from the Executive Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2413. 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 "Performance Standards for Ionizing Radiation Emitting Products; Fluoroscopic Equipment; Correction; Confirmation of Effective Date" (Docket No. FDA-2015-N-0828) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2414. A communication from the Chair of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board Regulations" (4 CFR Chapter II) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2415. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the Jacksonville, FL; Savannah, GA; Hagerstown-Martinsburg-Chambersburg, MD; Richmond, VA; and Roanoke, VA, Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas" (RIN3206-AN15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2416. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of proposed legislation entitled "Federal District Judgeship Act of 2015"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2417. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Debt Collection Recovery Activities of the Department of Justice for Civil Debts Referred for Collection Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2014"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2418. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, Connect America Fund" ((RIN3060-AF85) (FCC 15-71)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2419. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifica-

tions" (RIN0648-XD927) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2420. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions numbers 3, 4, 5, and 6" (RIN0648-XD976) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2421. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology Omnibus Amendment" (RIN0648-BE50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2422. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XD985) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2423. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closures for the Common Pool Fishery and Trip and Possession Limit Adjustment" (RIN0648-XE006) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2424. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Blacknose Sharks and Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks in the Atlantic Region" (RIN0648-XD980) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2425. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; 2015 and 2016 Commercial Fishing Restrictions for Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean" (RIN0648-XD972) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2426. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; 2015 Recreational Accountability Measures and Closure for South Atlantic Snowy Grouper" (RIN0648-XE014) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2427. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

"Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Re-Opening of Commercial Sector for Atlantic Dolphin" (RIN0648-XE017) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2428. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Blacknose Sharks and Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks in the Gulf of Mexico Region" (RIN0648-XD954) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2429. A communication from the Acting Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update to National Fire Protection Association Standards, Incorporation by Reference" (RIN2900-AO90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2015; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2430. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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-70. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to regulate airline baggage fees and processes for consumers as it relates to transportation of passenger luggage and passenger delays resulting from lost, damaged, or delayed luggage; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 207

Whereas, deregulation of the airline industry in the United States began more than three decades ago in 1978; and

Whereas, a consequence of deregulation was the elimination of federal control over many airline business practices, including pricing and domestic route selection; and

Whereas, though deregulation limits federal control of airline business practices generally, the federal government continues to legislate and enforce certain consumer protections for airline passengers; and

Whereas, the United States Congress largely determines the degree to which certain rights of airline passengers are codified in law or developed through regulatory rule-making; and

Whereas, since deregulation, the primary means of competition amongst airlines has progressively centered on price, not service; and

Whereas, certain concerns for passengers of airlines include increasing baggage fees and passenger delays resulting from lost, damaged, or delayed passenger luggage; and

Whereas, the airline industry began to charge passengers a checked baggage fee per bag to curtail rising jet fuel costs and to supplement marginal revenue during times of economic decline; and

Whereas, as a result of increasing airline baggage fees charged by airlines for checked luggage, passengers are encouraged to increase the contents of carry-on luggage to avoid the extra cost of baggage fees; and

Whereas, increased carry-on luggage of boarding airline passengers may be correlated to the claims of lost, damaged, or delayed passenger luggage, because passengers are oftentimes asked to check carry-on luggage at the boarding gate, which may require passengers to wait for such luggage after deboarding an aircraft, or luggage and contents may become damaged during the process of fitting carry-on luggage onto boarded aircrafts; and

Whereas, although checked luggage may be lost, damaged, or delayed for a variety of reasons, baggage handling systems, airline negligence, and the act of luggage offloading to accommodate extra fuel have also been discussed as reasons for lost, damaged, or delayed passenger luggage; and

Whereas, the aforementioned concerns of airline passengers are issues of consumer protection for which the United States Congress has the constitutional power to address and determine fair and reasonable solutions through codified law or regulatory rule-making: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to regulate airline baggage fees and processes for consumers as it relates to transportation of passenger luggage and passenger delays resulting from lost, damaged, or delayed luggage; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-71. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to amend the employer shared responsibility provisions regarding employee health coverage under Section 4980H of the Internal Revenue Code, as enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, to eliminate penalties on school districts; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 87

Whereas, a highly contentious aspect of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), referred to hereafter as "the ACA", is its imposition of financial penalties on employers known as "employer shared responsibility"; and

Whereas, the employer shared responsibility penalty applies to certain businesses with fifty or more full-time employees that either do not offer insurance or offer coverage which does not meet minimum standards set forth in the ACA; and

Whereas, after nearly four years of delays and regulatory uncertainty regarding application of the employer shared responsibility penalty following enactment of the ACA in March of 2010, the Internal Revenue Service, in its final regulations on the penalty issued in February of 2014 (79 Fed. Reg. 8544 (February 22, 2014)), provided that there is no exclusion from the penalty for government entities; and

Whereas, for purposes of the penalty, a "full-time employee" is now defined as any employee working an average of more than thirty hours per week or one hundred thirty hours per month; and

Whereas, because many part-time and temporary school personnel count as "full-time employees" under the ACA, the school dis-

tricts of this state now face crippling financial penalties, typically in the amount of two thousand dollars per employee who lacks health coverage, for not providing health coverage to personnel who traditionally have not been considered full-time employees: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to amend the employer shared responsibility provisions regarding employee health coverage under Section 4980H of the Internal Revenue Code, as enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, to eliminate penalties on school districts; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-72. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, urging the United States Congress and the New York State legislature to strengthen guidelines for the distribution of Medicaid services and to prevent Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-73. A communication from a citizen of the United States of Illinois memorializing the State of Illinois's petition to the United States Congress calling for a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing amendments; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1334. A bill to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Jonathan Elkind, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs).

*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.

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 Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 1873. A bill to strengthen accountability for deployment of border security technology at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. COATS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 1874. A bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER):

S. 1875. A bill to support enhanced accountability for United States assistance to Afghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. REED, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1876. A bill to rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State the Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to provide for an Assistant Secretary to head such Bureau, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1877. A bill to require the Attorney General to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Planned Parenthood, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 1878. A bill to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 1879. A bill to improve processes in the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 1880. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent veterans from being disqualified from contributing to health savings accounts by reason of receiving medical care for service-connected disabilities under programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. ERNST (for herself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. PAUL, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. COATS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SASSE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 1881. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America; read the first time.

By Mr. CARDIN (by request):

S.J. Res. 20. A joint resolution relating to the approval of the proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Korea Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. SCHATZ):