

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1579

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1579, a bill to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States.

S. 1622

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to devices.

S. 1659

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1659, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1716

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1716, a bill to provide access to higher education for the students of the United States.

S. 1775

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1775, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for veterans status of an individual who performed service as a coastwise merchant seaman during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1867

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1867, a bill to protect children from exploitation by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting

foreign governments to notify the United States when a known sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1979

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1979, a bill to direct the Chief of Engineers to transfer an archaeological collection, commonly referred to as the Kennewick Man or the Ancient One, to the Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation.

S. 2032

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2032, a bill to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

S. 2042

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2042, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to strengthen protections for employees wishing to advocate for improved wages, hours, or other terms or conditions of employment and to provide for stronger remedies for interference with these rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2084

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2084, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the authority of the National Labor Relations Board with respect to rule-making, issuance of complaints, and authority over unfair labor practices.

S. 2090

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2090, a bill to ensure that Social Security contributions made by workers are available to pay all benefits which they have earned.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to stimulate international tourism to the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2116

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2116, a bill to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 148

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 148, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 277—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2015 AS “NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH”

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 277

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have declared the month of October 2015 to be “National Principals Month”;

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations; Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement a clear mission, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

Whereas the celebration of National Principals Month would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals, and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2015 as “National Principals Month”; and

(2) honors the contribution of principals in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools of the United States by supporting the goals and ideals of National Principals Month.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 21—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 21

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on July 8, 2015, for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which abolished slavery in the United States.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2707. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. VITTER, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2116, to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2707. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. VITTER, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2116, to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Small Business Broadband and Emerging Information Technology Enhancement Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) According to a report by the Federal Communications Commission entitled “Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan”, dated March 2010, the Commission recommends that—

(A) “To fully implement next-generation technology within its operations, the SBA should also appoint a broadband and emerging IT coordinator. This individual would ensure that SBA programs maintain the requisite broadband expertise, tools and training courses to serve small businesses.”;

(B) “Congress should consider ways to leverage existing assistance provided through” entrepreneurial development programs, “to focus training on advanced IT and broadband applications”;

(C) “Congress could also consider ways to support technology training among women entrepreneurs through” women’s business centers;

(D) “The training programs should include an entry-level ‘Broadband 101’ course to give small businesses an introduction to how to capitalize on broadband connectivity, as well as more advanced applications for IT staff.”; and

(E) small and medium enterprise “IT training should include resources for non-IT staff, such as how to use e-commerce tools for sales, streamline finance with online records or leverage knowledge management across an organization.”.

(2) According to a report by the Broadband Opportunity Council, dated August 20, 2015, the availability of and access to broadband technology enables—

(A) greater civic participation, by providing tools for open government and streamlining government process;

(B) changes in how people access educational resources, collaborate in the educational process, conduct research, and continue to learn anytime, anywhere, and at any pace;

(C) improved healthcare access, treatments, and information;

(D) new business models that create business efficiencies, drive job creation, and connect manufacturers and store-fronts to clients and partners worldwide; and

(E) bringing communities together and improvements to public safety, creating a greener planet, and make transportation systems more resilient and efficient.

(3) According to a report entitled “The State of the App Economy”, dated October 2014—

(A) “More than three-quarters of the highest grossing apps are produced by startups and small companies.”; and

(B) “Seventy-eight percent of the leading app companies are located outside Silicon Valley.”.

(4) According to a report entitled, “Developer Economics Q1 2015: State of the Developer Nation”, dated February 2015, “The emergence of the app industry over the past eight years has grown to a \$120 billion economy.”.

SEC. 3. BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR.

The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 47 as section 48; and

(2) by inserting after section 46 the following:

“SEC. 47. BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘Associate Administrator’ means the Associate Administrator for the Office of Investment and Innovation; and

“(2) the term ‘broadband and emerging information technology coordinator’ means the employee designated to carry out the broadband and emerging information technology coordination responsibilities of the Administration under subsection (b)(1).

“(b) ASSIGNMENT OF COORDINATOR.—

“(1) ASSIGNMENT OF COORDINATOR.—The Associate Administrator shall designate a senior employee of the Office of Investment and Innovation to serve as the broadband and emerging information technology coordinator, who—

“(A) shall report to the Associate Administrator;

“(B) shall work in coordination with—

“(i) the chief information officer, the chief technology officer, and the head of the Office of Technology of the Administration; and

“(ii) any other Associate Administrator of the Administration determined appropriate by the Associate Administrator;

“(C) has experience developing and implementing telecommunications policy in the private sector or government; and

“(D) has demonstrated significant experience in the area of broadband or emerging information technology.

“(2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COORDINATOR.—The broadband and emerging information technology coordinator shall—

“(A) coordinate programs of the Administration that assist small business concerns in adopting, making innovations in, and using broadband and other emerging information technologies;

“(B) serve as the primary liaison of the Administration to other Federal agencies involved in broadband and emerging information technology policy, including the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Communications Commission;

“(C) identify best practices relating to broadband and emerging information technology that may benefit small business concerns; and

“(D) identify and catalog tools and training available through the resource partners of the Administration that assist small business concerns in adopting, making innovations in, and using broadband and emerging technologies.

“(3) TRAVEL.—Not more than 20 percent of the hours of service by the broadband and

emerging information technology coordinator during any fiscal year shall consist of travel outside the United States to perform official duties.

“(c) BROADBAND AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY TRAINING.—

“(1) TRAINING.—The Associate Administrator shall provide to employees of the Administration training that—

“(A) familiarizes employees of the Administration with broadband and other emerging information technologies;

“(B) includes—

“(i) instruction on counseling small business concerns regarding adopting, making innovations in, and using broadband and other emerging information technologies; and

“(ii) information on programs of the Federal Government that provide assistance to small business concerns relating to broadband and emerging information technologies; and

“(C) to maximum extent practicable, uses the tools and training cataloged and identified under subsection (b)(2)(D).

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection.

“(d) REPORTS.—

“(1) BIENNIAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Associate Administrator makes the first designation of an employee under subsection (b), and every 2 years thereafter, the broadband and emerging information technology coordinator 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 regarding the programs and activities of the Administration relating to broadband and other emerging information technologies.

“(2) IMPACT OF BROADBAND SPEED AND PRICE ON SMALL BUSINESSES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to appropriations, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy shall conduct a study evaluating the impact of broadband speed and price on small business concerns.

“(B) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Small Business Broadband and Emerging Information Technology Enhancement Act of 2015, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study under subparagraph (A), including—

“(i) a survey of broadband speeds available to small business concerns;

“(ii) a survey of the cost of broadband speeds available to small business concerns;

“(iii) a survey of the type of broadband technology used by small business concerns; and

“(iv) any policy recommendations that may improve the access of small business concerns to comparable broadband services at comparable rates in all regions of the United States.”.

SEC. 4. ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Section 21(c)(3)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(c)(3)(B)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “accessing broadband and other emerging information technology,” after “technology transfer.”;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in clause (iii), by adding “and” at the end; and