

Whereas the cowboy embodies honesty, integrity, courage, compassion, respect, a strong work ethic, and patriotism;

Whereas the cowboy spirit exemplifies strength of character, sound family values, and good common sense;

Whereas the cowboy archetype transcends ethnicity, gender, geographic boundaries, and political affiliations;

Whereas the cowboy, who lives off the land and works to protect and enhance the environment, is an excellent steward of the land and its creatures;

Whereas cowboy traditions have been a part of American culture for generations;

Whereas the cowboy continues to be an important part of the economy through the work of many thousands of ranchers across the United States who contribute to the economic well-being of every State;

Whereas millions of fans watch professional and working ranch rodeo events annually, making rodeo one of the most-watched sports in the United States;

Whereas membership and participation in rodeo and other organizations that promote and encompass the livelihood of cowboys span every generation and transcend race and gender;

Whereas the cowboy is a central figure in literature, film, and music and occupies a central place in the public imagination;

Whereas the cowboy is an American icon; and

Whereas the ongoing contributions made by cowboys and cowgirls to their communities should be recognized and encouraged: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 23, 2016, as “National Day of the American Cowboy”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 519—RECOGNIZING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CITY OF NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 519

Whereas American Indians made use of the land that is now Natchez, Mississippi (in this preamble referred to as “Natchez”) before the first European explorers reached the area;

Whereas the bluff in Natchez overlooking the Mississippi River has served as a natural geological setting that encouraged trade and cultural development;

Whereas Natchez was founded as Fort Rosalie by French settlers under Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne De Bienville in 1716;

Whereas construction of Fort Rosalie was completed on August 3, 1716;

Whereas Fort Rosalie was destroyed by Natchez Indians in 1729 and rebuilt by the French in 1731;

Whereas Natchez came under British control in 1763 and under Spanish control in 1779;

Whereas the Treaty of San Lorenzo established Natchez as a United States territory in 1798;

Whereas Natchez served as the original capital of the Mississippi Territory from 1798 to 1802 and as the original capital of the State of Mississippi from 1817 to 1821;

Whereas Natchez is the terminus of the historically significant Old Natchez Trace, which is now preserved by the United States

National Park Service and known as the Natchez Trace Parkway;

Whereas Natchez was the original home to Jackson State University, which was first known as Natchez Seminary;

Whereas Natchez has been home to several notable individuals, including United States Senator Hiram Rhodes Revels, United States Representative John R. Lynch, and author Richard Wright;

Whereas Natchez city events contribute to the cultural life and historical understanding of Mississippi, including—

(1) the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration;

(2) the Natchez Festival of Music;

(3) the Great Mississippi River Balloon Race; and

(4) the Natchez Pilgrimage;

Whereas the city of Natchez is currently holding a year-long tricentennial celebration, in honor of the history of Natchez, that will end with a 300th birthday party on August 3, 2016;

Whereas the heritage and educational events during the tricentennial celebration will be observed by delegations from France and Canada;

Whereas Natchez is signified nationally as the oldest European-built city on the lower Mississippi River; and

Whereas it is important for the people of Mississippi and the United States to remember history in an inclusive way that honors contributions from all backgrounds: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the year 2016 as the “Natchez Tricentennial”; and

(2) honors the history and founding of Mississippi through the Natchez Tricentennial.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4929. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4881 submitted by Ms. WARREN and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2328, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4930. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2328, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4931. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2328, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4932. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2328, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4933. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2328, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4934. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2328, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4935. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. ROBERTS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 764, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

SA 4936. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4935 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. ROBERTS) to the bill S. 764, supra.

SA 4937. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 764, supra.

SA 4938. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4937 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 764, supra.

SA 4939. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4938 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 4937 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 764, supra.

SA 4940. Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. NELSON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SULIVAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. SCHATZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2829, to amend and enhance certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes.

SA 4941. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 764, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4942. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 764, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4943. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 764, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4944. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 764, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4945. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 764, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4946. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 764, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4929. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4881 submitted by Ms. WARREN and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2328, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

(d) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act—

(1) section 301 of this Act is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “however,” and inserting “however the reference to section 943(b) of title 11, United States Code, in section 930(a)(5) of title 11, United States Code, shall mean section 314 of this title, and”;

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting “such” after “vote”; and

(ii) in paragraph (4), by striking “and/or” and inserting “or”;

(C) in subsection (e), by striking “1122” and inserting “314(c)(1)”; and

(D) in section 302, by inserting “only” after “title”;

(2) section 303 of this Act is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or moratorium” after “composition”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “unlawful”;

(3) section 304 of this Act is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “voluntary”;

(B) in subsection (f), by striking “the cases of”;

(C) in subsection (g), by striking “, on behalf of a debtor and one or more affiliates, has filed separate cases and the Oversight Board, on behalf of the debtor or one of the affiliates,” and inserting “has filed separate cases on behalf of debtors that are affiliates and the Oversight Board on behalf of one or more of the debtors”;

(D) in subsection (h), by inserting “, only to the extent that such obligations are being enforced or will be enforced by governmental units” after “provisions”; and

(E) in subsection (i), by striking “including sections of title 11, United States Code, incorporated by reference, nothing in this section” and insert “nothing in this title”; and

(4) section 306 of this Act is amended—

(A) in subsection (c), by inserting “, to the extent permitted by the Constitution of the United States” after “entity”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “or subsection (e) of this section,” before “or by”; and

(C) in subsection (e)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking “in which a case under this title has venue pursuant to section 307 of this title” and inserting “embracing the district in which the case is”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “direct”; and

(D) in subsection (f), by inserting “or appropriate” after “necessary”; and

(5) section 307 of this Act is amended by striking subsection (b);

(6) section 308(b) of this Act is amended by inserting “of that circuit” before “to conduct the case.”; and

(7) section 309 of this Act is amended—

(A) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before “Nothing in this title”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) REVIEW.—Any decision to abstain or not to abstain is not reviewable by appeal or otherwise by the court of appeals under section 1291 or 1292 of title 28, United States Code, or section 306(e) of this title, or by the Supreme Court of the United States under section 1254 of title 28, United States Code. This subsection shall not be construed to limit the applicability of the stay provided for by section 362 of title 11, United States Code, (as made applicable to cases under this title under section 301(a)) as such section applies to an action affecting the property of the estate in bankruptcy.”;

(8) section 310 of this Act is amended by inserting “, as if it were a case under chapter 9 of title 11, United States Code, or a civil proceeding arising under such chapter or arising in or related to a case under such chapter” before the period at the end;

(9) section 312(b) of this Act is amended by inserting “or before” after “plan of adjustment at”; and

(10) section 314 of this Act is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(6)—

(i) by striking “the non-bankruptcy laws and” and inserting “otherwise applicable laws and the”; and

(ii) by inserting “the recovery that” after “greater recovery for the creditors than”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “with respect to” and inserting “in”; and

(11) section 316(c)(3) of this Act is amended by striking “this chapter” and inserting “this title”; and

(12) section 405 of this Act is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “any other source of law” and inserting “any other source”; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “that arose before the enactment of this Act”; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (5);

(iii) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

(iv) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated, by striking “that arose before the enactment of this Act”; and

(C) in subsection (j)(3)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) the financial condition of, or the commencement of a restructuring, insolvency, bankruptcy, or other proceeding (or a similar or analogous process) by, the Government of Puerto Rico, including a default or an event of default thereunder.”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “paragraph (1)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”; and

(D) in subsection (l), by striking “when such payments become due during the length of the stay” and inserting “as and when such payments become due during the duration of the stay”; and

(13) section 601 of this Act is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(11)(B), by striking “current accreted value” and all that follows and inserting “accreted value of such Capital Appreciation Bond or a Convertible Capital Appreciation Bond, as of the date of the determination and as applicable.”; and

(B) in subsection (c), by striking “above”; and

(C) in subsection (d)(3)(B), by inserting “applicable to such Bonds” before the period at the end;

(D) in subsection (e), by striking “the procedures under”; and

(E) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and” after “Issuer’s existing debts.”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3), by inserting “by the Oversight Board” after “has been certified”; and

(F) in subsection (i), by inserting “with respect to not less than 1 of” before “the Issuer’s Outstanding Bonds.”; and

(G) in subsection (j), by inserting “such” before “Insured Bonds for purposes of direct remedies”; and

(H) in subsection (l)—

(i) by striking “consent of holder” and inserting “consent of holders”; and

(ii) by striking “a written action” and inserting “an action”; and

(I) in subsection (m)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (B), by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) any conditions on the effectiveness of the Qualifying Modification have been satisfied or, except for such conditions that have been identified in the Qualifying Modification as being non-waivable, in the Administrative Supervisor’s sole discretion, satisfaction of such conditions has been waived.”; and

(II) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking “the lesser of” and all that follows and inserting “the lesser of the Outstanding Principal amount of the Bond Claim on the effective date of the Qualifying Modification or of the value of the collateral securing such Bond Claim; and”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “should not be subject” and inserting “may not be subject”; and

(J) in subsection (n)(1), by inserting “or related to” before “this section.”.

SA 4930. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2328, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the first word and insert the following:

(g) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(g)) is amended by striking paragraphs (2) through (4) and inserting the following:

“(2) In lieu of the rate prescribed by subsection (a)(1), the Governor of Puerto Rico, subject to the approval of the Financial Oversight and Management Board established pursuant to section 101 of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic

Stability Act, may designate a time period not to exceed four years during which employers in Puerto Rico may pay employees who are initially employed after the date of enactment of such Act a wage which is not less than the wage described in paragraph (1). Notwithstanding the time period designated, such wage shall not continue in effect after such Board terminates in accordance with section 209 of such Act.

“(3) No employer may take any action to displace employees (including partial displacements such as reduction in hours, wages, or employment benefits) for purposes of hiring individuals at the wage authorized in paragraph (1) or (2).

“(4) Any employer who violates this subsection shall be considered to have violated section 15(a)(3) (29 U.S.C. 215(a)(3)).

“(5) This subsection shall only apply to an employee who has not attained the age of 20 years, except in the case of the wage applicable in Puerto Rico, 25 years, until such time as the Board described in paragraph (2) terminates in accordance with section 209 of the Act described in such paragraph.”.

SA 4931. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2328, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the first word and insert the following:

(a) SPECIAL RULE.—The regulations proposed by the Secretary of Labor relating to exemptions regarding the rates of pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, and published in a notice in the Federal Register on July 6, 2015, and any final regulations issued related to such notice, shall have no force or effect in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico until—

(1) the Comptroller General of the United States completes the assessment and transmits the report required under subsection (b); and

(2) the Secretary of Labor taking into account the assessment and report of the Comptroller General, provides a written determination to Congress that applying such rule to Puerto Rico would not have a negative impact on the economy of Puerto Rico.

(b) ASSESSMENT and REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall examine the economic conditions in Puerto Rico and shall transmit a report to Congress assessing the impact of applying the regulations described in subsection (a) to Puerto Rico, taking into consideration regional, metropolitan, and non-metropolitan salary and cost-of-living differences.

SA 4932. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2328, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 405 and insert the following:

SEC. 405. AUTOMATIC STAY UPON ENACTMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LIABILITY.—The term “Liability” means a bond, loan, letter of credit, other borrowing title, obligation of insurance, or other financial indebtedness for borrowed money, including rights, entitlements, or obligations whether such rights, entitlements, or obligations arise from contract, statute, or any other source of law related to such a

bond, loan, letter of credit, other borrowing title, obligation of insurance, or other financial indebtedness in physical or dematerialized form, of which—

(A) the issuer, obligor, or guarantor is the Government of Puerto Rico; and

(B) the date of issuance or incurrence precedes the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **LIABILITY CLAIM.**—The term “Liability Claim” means, as it relates to a Liability—

(A) right to payment, whether or not such right is reduced to judgment, liquidated, unliquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured, or unsecured; or

(B) right to an equitable remedy for breach of performance if such breach gives rise to a right to payment, whether or not such right to an equitable remedy is reduced to judgment, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, secured, or unsecured.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the establishment of an Oversight Board for Puerto Rico (i.e., the enactment of this Act) in accordance with section 101 operates with respect to a Liability as a stay, applicable to all entities (as such term is defined in section 101 of title 11, United States Code), of—

(1) the commencement or continuation, including the issuance or employment of process, of a judicial, administrative, or other action or proceeding against the Government of Puerto Rico that was or could have been commenced before the enactment of this Act, or to recover a Liability Claim against the Government of Puerto Rico that arose before the enactment of this Act;

(2) the enforcement, against the Government of Puerto Rico or against property of the Government of Puerto Rico, of a judgment obtained before the enactment of this Act;

(3) any act to obtain possession of property of the Government of Puerto Rico or of property from the Government of Puerto Rico or to exercise control over property of the Government of Puerto Rico;

(4) any act to create, perfect, or enforce any lien against property of the Government of Puerto Rico;

(5) any act to create, perfect, or enforce against property of the Government of Puerto Rico any lien to the extent that such lien secures a Liability Claim that arose before the enactment of this Act;

(6) any act to collect, assess, or recover a Liability Claim against the Government of Puerto Rico that arose before the enactment of this Act; and

(7) the setoff of any debt owing to the Government of Puerto Rico that arose before the enactment of this Act against any Liability Claim against the Government of Puerto Rico.

(c) **STAY NOT OPERABLE.**—The establishment of an Oversight Board for Puerto Rico in accordance with section 101 does not operate as a stay—

(1) solely under subsection (b)(1) of this section, of the continuation of, including the issuance or employment of process, of a judicial, administrative, or other action or proceeding against the Government of Puerto Rico that was commenced on or before December 18, 2015; or

(2) of the commencement or continuation of an action or proceeding by a governmental unit to enforce such governmental unit's or organization's police and regulatory power, including the enforcement of a judgment other than a money judgment, obtained in an action or proceeding by the governmental unit to enforce such governmental unit's or organization's police or regulatory power; or

(3) to enforce a claim for interest on a Bond.

(d) **CONTINUATION OF STAY.**—Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g) the stay under subsection (b) continues until the earlier of—

(1) the later of—

(A) the later of—

(i) February 15, 2017; or (ii) six months after the establishment of an Oversight Board for Puerto Rico as established by section 101(b);

(B) the date that is 75 days after the date in subparagraph (A) if the Oversight Board delivers a certification to the Governor that, in the Oversight Board's sole discretion, an additional 75 days are needed to seek to complete a voluntary process under title VI of this Act with respect to the government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any of its territorial instrumentalities; or

(C) the date that is 60 days after the date in subparagraph (A) if the district court to which an application has been submitted under subparagraph 601(m)(1)(D) of this Act determines, in the exercise of the court's equitable powers, that an additional 60 days are needed to complete a voluntary process under title VI of this Act with respect to the government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any of its territorial instrumentalities; or

(2) with respect to the government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any of its territorial instrumentalities, the date on which a case is filed by or on behalf of the government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any of its territorial instrumentalities, as applicable, under title III.

(e) **JURISDICTION, RELIEF FROM STAY.**—

(1) The United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction of any civil actions arising under or related to this section.

(2) On motion of or action filed by a party in interest and after notice and a hearing, the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, for cause shown, shall grant relief from the stay provided under subsection (b) of this section.

(f) **TERMINATION OF STAY; HEARING.**—Forty-five days after a request under subsection (e)(2) for relief from the stay of any act against property of the Government of Puerto Rico under subsection (b), such stay is terminated with respect to the party in interest making such request, unless the court, after notice and a hearing, orders such stay continued in effect pending the conclusion of, or as a result of, a final hearing and determination under subsection (e)(2). A hearing under this subsection may be a preliminary hearing, or may be consolidated with the final hearing under subsection (e)(2). The court shall order such stay continued in effect pending the conclusion of the final hearing under subsection (e)(2) if there is a reasonable likelihood that the party opposing relief from such stay will prevail at the conclusion of such final hearing. If the hearing under this subsection is a preliminary hearing, then such final hearing shall be concluded not later than thirty days after the conclusion of such preliminary hearing, unless the thirty-day period is extended with the consent of the parties in interest or for a specific time which the court finds is required by compelling circumstances.

(g) **RELIEF TO PREVENT IRREPARABLE DAMAGE.**—Upon request of a party in interest, the court, with or without a hearing, shall grant such relief from the stay provided under subsection (b) as is necessary to prevent irreparable damage to the interest of an entity in property, if such interest will suffer such damage before there is an opportunity for notice and a hearing under subsection (e) or (f).

(h) **ACT IN VIOLATION OF STAY IS VOID.**—Any order, judgment, or decree entered in

violation of this section and any act taken in violation of this section is void, and shall have no force or effect, and any person found to violate this section may be liable for damages, costs, and attorneys' fees incurred in defending any action taken in violation of this section, and the Oversight Board or the Government of Puerto Rico may seek an order from the court enforcing the provisions of this section.

(i) **GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO.**—For purposes of this section, the term “Government of Puerto Rico”, in addition to the definition set forth in section 5(11) of this Act, shall include—

(1) the individuals, including elected and appointed officials, directors, officers of and employees acting in their official capacity on behalf of the Government of Puerto Rico; and

(2) the Oversight Board, including the directors and officers of and employees acting in their official capacity on behalf of the Oversight Board.

(j) **NO DEFAULT UNDER EXISTING CONTRACTS.**—

(1) Notwithstanding any contractual provision or applicable law to the contrary and so long as a stay under this section is in effect, the holder of a Liability Claim or any other claim (as such term is defined in section 101 of title 11, United States Code) may not exercise or continue to exercise any remedy under a contract or applicable law in respect to the Government of Puerto Rico or any of its property—

(A) that is conditioned upon the financial condition of, or the commencement of a restructuring, insolvency, bankruptcy, or other proceeding (or a similar or analogous process) by, the Government of Puerto Rico, including a default or an event of default thereunder; or

(B) with respect to Liability Claims—

(i) for the non-payment of principal or interest (other than to enforce a claim for interest on a Bond); or

(ii) for the breach of any condition or covenant.

(2) The term “remedy” as used in paragraph (1) shall be interpreted broadly, and shall include any right existing in law or contract, including any right to—

(A) setoff;

(B) apply or appropriate funds;

(C) seek the appointment of a custodian (as such term is defined in section 101(11) of title 11, United States Code);

(D) seek to raise rates; or

(E) exercise control over property of the Government of Puerto Rico.

(3) Notwithstanding any contractual provision or applicable law to the contrary and so long as a stay under this section is in effect, a contract to which the Government of Puerto Rico is a party may not be terminated or modified, and any right or obligation under such contract may not be terminated or modified, solely because of a provision in such contract is conditioned on—

(A) the insolvency or financial condition of the Government of Puerto Rico at any time prior to the enactment of this Act;

(B) the adoption of a resolution or establishment of an Oversight Board pursuant to section 101 of this Act; or

(C) a default under a separate contract that is due to, triggered by, or a result of the occurrence of the events or matters in paragraph (1)(B).

(4) Notwithstanding any contractual provision to the contrary and so long as a stay under this section is in effect, a counterparty to a contract with the Government of Puerto Rico for the provision of goods and services shall, unless the Government of Puerto Rico agrees to the contrary

in writing, continue to perform all obligations under, and comply with the terms of, such contract, provided that the Government of Puerto Rico is not in default under such contract other than as a result of a condition specified in paragraph (3).

(k) **EFFECT.**—This section does not discharge an obligation of the Government of Puerto Rico or release, invalidate, or impair any security interest or lien securing such obligation. This section does not impair or affect the implementation of any restructuring support agreement executed by the Government of Puerto Rico to be implemented pursuant to Puerto Rico law specifically enacted for that purpose prior to the enactment of this Act or the obligation of the Government of Puerto Rico to proceed in good faith as set forth in any such agreement.

(l) **PAYMENTS ON LIABILITIES.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Government of Puerto Rico from making any payment on any Liability when such payment becomes due during the term of the stay, and to the extent the Oversight Board, in its sole discretion, determines it is feasible, the Government of Puerto Rico shall make interest payments on outstanding indebtedness when such payments become due during the length of the stay.

(m) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) A combination of severe economic decline, and, at times, accumulated operating deficits, lack of financial transparency, management inefficiencies, and excessive borrowing has created a fiscal emergency in Puerto Rico.

(2) As a result of its fiscal emergency, the Government of Puerto Rico has been unable to provide its citizens with effective services.

(3) The current fiscal emergency has also affected the long-term economic stability of Puerto Rico by contributing to the accelerated outmigration of residents and businesses.

(4) A comprehensive approach to fiscal, management, and structural problems and adjustments that exempts no part of the Government of Puerto Rico is necessary, involving independent oversight and a Federal statutory authority for the Government of Puerto Rico to restructure debts in a fair and orderly process.

(5) **ADDITIONALLY, AN IMMEDIATE.**—but temporary—stay is essential to stabilize the region for the purposes of resolving this territorial crisis.

(A) The stay advances the best interests common to all stakeholders, including but not limited to a functioning independent Oversight Board created pursuant to this Act to determine whether to appear or intervene on behalf of the Government of Puerto Rico in any litigation that may have been commenced prior to the effectiveness or upon expiration of the stay.

(B) The stay is limited in nature and narrowly tailored to achieve the purposes of this Act, including to ensure all creditors have a fair opportunity to consensually renegotiate terms of repayment based on accurate financial information that is reviewed by an independent authority or, at a minimum, receive a recovery from the Government of Puerto Rico equal to their best possible outcome absent the provisions of this Act.

(6) Finally, the ability of the Government of Puerto Rico to obtain funds from capital markets in the future will be severely diminished without congressional action to restore its financial accountability and stability.

(n) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this section are to—

(1) provide the Government of Puerto Rico with the resources and the tools it needs to address an immediate existing and imminent crisis;

(2) allow the Government of Puerto Rico a limited period of time during which it can focus its resources on negotiating a voluntary resolution with its creditors instead of defending numerous, costly creditor lawsuits;

(3) provide an oversight mechanism to assist the Government of Puerto Rico in reforming its fiscal governance and support the implementation of potential debt restructuring;

(4) make available a Federal restructuring authority, if necessary, to allow for an orderly adjustment of all of the Government of Puerto Rico's liabilities; and

(5) benefit the lives of 3.5 million American citizens living in Puerto Rico by encouraging the Government of Puerto Rico to resolve its longstanding fiscal governance issues and return to economic growth.

(o) **VOTING ON VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS NOT STAYED.**—Notwithstanding any provision in this section to the contrary, nothing in this section shall prevent the holder of a Liability Claim from voting on or consenting to a proposed modification of such Liability Claim under title VI of this Act.

SA 4933. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2328, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 405 and insert the following:

SEC. 405. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) A combination of severe economic decline, and, at times, accumulated operating deficits, lack of financial transparency, management inefficiencies, and excessive borrowing has created a fiscal emergency in Puerto Rico.

(2) As a result of its fiscal emergency, the Government of Puerto Rico has been unable to provide its citizens with effective services.

(3) The current fiscal emergency has also affected the long-term economic stability of Puerto Rico by contributing to the accelerated outmigration of residents and businesses.

(4) A comprehensive approach to fiscal, management, and structural problems and adjustments that exempts no part of the Government of Puerto Rico is necessary, involving independent oversight and a Federal statutory authority for the Government of Puerto Rico to restructure debts in a fair and orderly process.

(5) Finally, the ability of the Government of Puerto Rico to obtain funds from capital markets in the future will be severely diminished without congressional action to restore its financial accountability and stability.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) provide the Government of Puerto Rico with the resources and the tools it needs to address an immediate existing and imminent crisis;

(2) incentivize the Government of Puerto Rico to focus its resources on negotiating a voluntary resolution with its creditors;

(3) provide an oversight mechanism to assist the Government of Puerto Rico in reforming its fiscal governance and support the implementation of potential debt restructuring;

(4) make available a Federal restructuring authority, if necessary, to allow for an orderly adjustment of all of the Government of Puerto Rico's liabilities; and

(5) benefit the lives of 3.5 million American citizens living in Puerto Rico by encouraging

the Government of Puerto Rico to resolve its longstanding fiscal governance issues and return to economic growth.

SA 4934. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2328, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 104(e), add at the end the following: “Nothing in this Act provides immunity to the Oversight Board, members of the Oversight Board, or employees of the Oversight Board from any anti-corruption laws.”.

SA 4935. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. ROBERTS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 764, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. NATIONAL BIOENGINEERED FOOD DISCLOSURE STANDARD.

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Subtitle E—National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard

“SEC. 291. DEFINITIONS.

“In this subtitle:

“(1) **BIOENGINEERING.**—The term ‘bioengineering’, and any similar term, as determined by the Secretary, with respect to a food, refers to a food—

“(A) that contains genetic material that has been modified through in vitro recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) techniques; and

“(B) for which the modification could not otherwise be obtained through conventional breeding or found in nature.

“(2) **FOOD.**—The term ‘food’ means a food (as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321)) that is intended for human consumption.

“(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Agriculture.

“SEC. 292. APPLICABILITY.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—This subtitle shall apply to any claim in a disclosure that a food bears that indicates that the food is a bioengineered food.

“(b) **APPLICATION OF DEFINITION.**—The definition of the term ‘bioengineering’ under section 291 shall not affect any other definition, program, rule, or regulation of the Federal Government.

“(c) **APPLICATION TO FOODS.**—This subtitle shall apply only to a food subject to—

“(1) the labeling requirements under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); or

“(2) the labeling requirements under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.), or the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.) only if—

“(A) the most predominant ingredient of the food would independently be subject to the labeling requirements under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); or

“(B)(i) the most predominant ingredient of the food is broth, stock, water, or a similar solution; and

“(ii) the second-most predominant ingredient of the food would independently be subject to the labeling requirements under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.).

“SEC. 293. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL BIOENGINEERED FOOD DISCLOSURE STANDARD.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF MANDATORY STANDARD.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Secretary shall—

“(1) establish a national mandatory bioengineered food disclosure standard with respect to any bioengineered food and any food that may be bioengineered; and

“(2) establish such requirements and procedures as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the standard.

“(b) REGULATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A food may bear a disclosure that the food is bioengineered only in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary in accordance with this subtitle.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A regulation promulgated by the Secretary in carrying out this subtitle shall—

“(A) prohibit a food derived from an animal to be considered a bioengineered food solely because the animal consumed feed produced from, containing, or consisting of a bioengineered substance;

“(B) determine the amounts of a bioengineered substance that may be present in food, as appropriate, in order for the food to be a bioengineered food;

“(C) establish a process for requesting and granting a determination by the Secretary regarding other factors and conditions under which a food is considered a bioengineered food;

“(D) in accordance with subsection (d), require that the form of a food disclosure under this section be a text, symbol, or electronic or digital link, but excluding Internet website Uniform Resource Locators not embedded in the link, with the disclosure option to be selected by the food manufacturer;

“(E) provide alternative reasonable disclosure options for food contained in small or very small packages;

“(F) in the case of small food manufacturers, provide—

“(i) an implementation date that is not earlier than 1 year after the implementation date for regulations promulgated in accordance with this section; and

“(ii) on-package disclosure options, in addition to those available under subparagraph (D), to be selected by the small food manufacturer, that consist of—

“(I) a telephone number accompanied by appropriate language to indicate that the phone number provides access to additional information; and

“(II) an Internet website maintained by the small food manufacturer in a manner consistent with subsection (d), as appropriate; and

“(G) exclude—

“(i) food served in a restaurant or similar retail food establishment; and

“(ii) very small food manufacturers.

“(3) SAFETY.—For the purpose of regulations promulgated and food disclosures made pursuant to paragraph (2), a bioengineered food that has successfully completed the premarket Federal regulatory review process shall not be treated as safer than, or not as safe as, a non-bioengineered counterpart of the food solely because the food is bioengineered or produced or developed with the use of bioengineering.

“(c) STUDY OF ELECTRONIC OR DIGITAL LINK DISCLOSURE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Secretary shall conduct a study to identify potential technological challenges that may impact whether consumers would have access to the bioengineering disclosure

through electronic or digital disclosure methods.

“(2) PUBLIC COMMENTS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall solicit and consider comments from the public.

“(3) FACTORS.—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall consider whether consumer access to the bioengineering disclosure through electronic or digital disclosure methods under this subtitle would be affected by the following factors:

“(A) The availability of wireless Internet or cellular networks.

“(B) The availability of landline telephones in stores.

“(C) Challenges facing small retailers and rural retailers.

“(D) The efforts that retailers and other entities have taken to address potential technology and infrastructure challenges.

“(E) The costs and benefits of installing in retail stores electronic or digital link scanners or other evolving technology that provide bioengineering disclosure information.

“(4) ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE OPTIONS.—If the Secretary determines in the study conducted under paragraph (1) that consumers, while shopping, would not have sufficient access to the bioengineering disclosure through electronic or digital disclosure methods, the Secretary, after consultation with food retailers and manufacturers, shall provide additional and comparable options to access the bioengineering disclosure.

“(d) DISCLOSURE.—In promulgating regulations under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that—

“(1) on-package language accompanies—

“(A) the electronic or digital link disclosure, indicating that the electronic or digital link will provide access to an Internet website or other landing page by stating only ‘Scan here for more food information’, or equivalent language that only reflects technological changes; or

“(B) any telephone number disclosure, indicating that the telephone number will provide access to additional information by stating only ‘Call for more food information.’;

“(2) the electronic or digital link will provide access to the bioengineering disclosure located, in a consistent and conspicuous manner, on the first product information page that appears for the product on a mobile device, Internet website, or other landing page, which shall exclude marketing and promotional information;

“(3)(A) the electronic or digital link disclosure may not collect, analyze, or sell any personally identifiable information about consumers or the devices of consumers; but

“(B) if information described in subparagraph (A) must be collected to carry out the purposes of this subtitle, that information shall be deleted immediately and not used for any other purpose;

“(4) the electronic or digital link disclosure also includes a telephone number that provides access to the bioengineering disclosure; and

“(5) the electronic or digital link disclosure is of sufficient size to be easily and effectively scanned or read by a digital device.

“(e) STATE FOOD LABELING STANDARDS.—Notwithstanding section 295, no State or political subdivision of a State may directly or indirectly establish under any authority or continue in effect as to any food in interstate commerce any requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether a food is bioengineered or was developed or produced using bioengineering for a food that is the subject of the national bioengineered food disclosure standard under this section that is not identical to the mandatory disclosure requirement under that standard.

“(f) CONSISTENCY WITH CERTAIN LAWS.—The Secretary shall consider establishing consistency between—

“(1) the national bioengineered food disclosure standard established under this section; and

“(2) the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) and any rules or regulations implementing that Act.

“(g) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) PROHIBITED ACT.—It shall be a prohibited act for a person to knowingly fail to make a disclosure as required under this section.

“(2) RECORDKEEPING.—Each person subject to the mandatory disclosure requirement under this section shall maintain, and make available to the Secretary, on request, such records as the Secretary determines to be customary or reasonable in the food industry, by regulation, to establish compliance with this section.

“(3) EXAMINATION AND AUDIT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct an examination, audit, or similar activity with respect to any records required under paragraph (2).

“(B) NOTICE AND HEARING.—A person subject to an examination, audit, or similar activity under subparagraph (A) shall be provided notice and opportunity for a hearing on the results of any examination, audit, or similar activity.

“(C) AUDIT RESULTS.—After the notice and opportunity for a hearing under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall make public the summary of any examination, audit, or similar activity under subparagraph (A).

“(4) RECALL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall have no authority to recall any food subject to this subtitle on the basis of whether the food bears a disclosure that the food is bioengineered.

“SEC. 294. SAVINGS PROVISIONS.

“(a) TRADE.—This subtitle shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

“(b) OTHER AUTHORITIES.—Nothing in this subtitle—

“(1) affects the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services or creates any rights or obligations for any person under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); or

“(2) affects the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury or creates any rights or obligations for any person under the Federal Alcohol Administration Act (27 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

“(c) OTHER.—A food may not be considered to be ‘not bioengineered’, ‘non-GMO’, or any other similar claim describing the absence of bioengineering in the food solely because the food is not required to bear a disclosure that the food is bioengineered under this subtitle.

“Subtitle F—Labeling of Certain Food

“SEC. 295. FEDERAL PREEMPTION.

“(a) DEFINITION OF FOOD.—In this subtitle, the term ‘food’ has the meaning given the term in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

“(b) FEDERAL PREEMPTION.—No State or a political subdivision of a State may directly or indirectly establish under any authority or continue in effect as to any food or seed in interstate commerce any requirement relating to the labeling of whether a food (including food served in a restaurant or similar establishment) or seed is genetically engineered (which shall include such other similar terms as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture) or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed or produced using genetic engineering.

“SEC. 296. EXCLUSION FROM FEDERAL PREEMPTION.”

“Nothing in this subtitle, subtitle E, or any regulation, rule, or requirement promulgated in accordance with this subtitle or subtitle E shall be construed to preempt any remedy created by a State or Federal statutory or common law right.”.

SEC. 2. ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOOD.

In the case of a food certified under the national organic program established under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.), the certification shall be considered sufficient to make a claim regarding the absence of bioengineering in the food, such as “not bioengineered”, “non-GMO”, or another similar claim.

SA 4936. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4935 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. ROBERTS) to the bill S. 764, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.

SA 4937. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 764, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. NATIONAL BIOENGINEERED FOOD DISCLOSURE STANDARD.

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Subtitle E—National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard**“SEC. 291. DEFINITIONS.**

“In this subtitle:

“(1) **BIOENGINEERING.**—The term ‘bioengineering’, and any similar term, as determined by the Secretary, with respect to a food, refers to a food—

“(A) that contains genetic material that has been modified through in vitro recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) techniques; and

“(B) for which the modification could not otherwise be obtained through conventional breeding or found in nature.

“(2) **FOOD.**—The term ‘food’ means a food (as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321)) that is intended for human consumption.

“(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Agriculture.

“SEC. 292. APPLICABILITY.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—This subtitle shall apply to any claim in a disclosure that a food bears that indicates that the food is a bioengineered food.

“(b) **APPLICATION OF DEFINITION.**—The definition of the term ‘bioengineering’ under section 291 shall not affect any other definition, program, rule, or regulation of the Federal Government.

“(c) **APPLICATION TO FOODS.**—This subtitle shall apply only to a food subject to—

“(1) the labeling requirements under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); or

“(2) the labeling requirements under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.), or the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.) only if—

“(A) the most predominant ingredient of the food would independently be subject to

the labeling requirements under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); or

“(B)(i) the most predominant ingredient of the food is broth, stock, water, or a similar solution; and

“(ii) the second-most predominant ingredient of the food would independently be subject to the labeling requirements under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.).

“SEC. 293. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL BIOENGINEERED FOOD DISCLOSURE STANDARD.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF MANDATORY STANDARD.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Secretary shall—

“(1) establish a national mandatory bioengineered food disclosure standard with respect to any bioengineered food and any food that may be bioengineered; and

“(2) establish such requirements and procedures as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the standard.

“(b) **REGULATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A food may bear a disclosure that the food is bioengineered only in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary in accordance with this subtitle.

“(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—A regulation promulgated by the Secretary in carrying out this subtitle shall—

“(A) prohibit a food derived from an animal to be considered a bioengineered food solely because the animal consumed feed produced from, containing, or consisting of a bioengineered substance;

“(B) determine the amounts of a bioengineered substance that may be present in food, as appropriate, in order for the food to be a bioengineered food;

“(C) establish a process for requesting and granting a determination by the Secretary regarding other factors and conditions under which a food is considered a bioengineered food;

“(D) in accordance with subsection (d), require that the form of a food disclosure under this section be a text, symbol, or electronic or digital link, but excluding Internet website Uniform Resource Locators not embedded in the link, with the disclosure option to be selected by the food manufacturer;

“(E) provide alternative reasonable disclosure options for food contained in small or very small packages;

“(F) in the case of small food manufacturers, provide—

“(i) an implementation date that is not earlier than 1 year after the implementation date for regulations promulgated in accordance with this section; and

“(ii) on-package disclosure options, in addition to those available under subparagraph (D), to be selected by the small food manufacturer, that consist of—

“(I) a telephone number accompanied by appropriate language to indicate that the phone number provides access to additional information; and

“(II) an Internet website maintained by the small food manufacturer in a manner consistent with subsection (d), as appropriate; and

“(G) exclude—

“(i) food served in a restaurant or similar retail food establishment; and

“(ii) very small food manufacturers.

“(3) **SAFETY.**—For the purpose of regulations promulgated and food disclosures made pursuant to paragraph (2), a bioengineered food that has successfully completed the pre-market Federal regulatory review process shall not be treated as safer than, or not as safe as, a non-bioengineered counterpart of the food solely because the food is bioengi-

neered or produced or developed with the use of bioengineering.

“(c) **STUDY OF ELECTRONIC OR DIGITAL LINK DISCLOSURE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Secretary shall conduct a study to identify potential technological challenges that may impact whether consumers would have access to the bioengineering disclosure through electronic or digital disclosure methods.

“(2) **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall solicit and consider comments from the public.

“(3) **FACTORS.**—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall consider whether consumer access to the bioengineering disclosure through electronic or digital disclosure methods under this subtitle would be affected by the following factors:

“(A) The availability of wireless Internet or cellular networks.

“(B) The availability of landline telephones in stores.

“(C) Challenges facing small retailers and rural retailers.

“(D) The efforts that retailers and other entities have taken to address potential technology and infrastructure challenges.

“(E) The costs and benefits of installing in retail stores electronic or digital link scanners or other evolving technology that provide bioengineering disclosure information.

“(4) **ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE OPTIONS.**—If the Secretary determines in the study conducted under paragraph (1) that consumers, while shopping, would not have sufficient access to the bioengineering disclosure through electronic or digital disclosure methods, the Secretary, after consultation with food retailers and manufacturers, shall provide additional and comparable options to access the bioengineering disclosure.

“(d) **DISCLOSURE.**—In promulgating regulations under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that—

“(1) on-package language accompanies—

“(A) the electronic or digital link disclosure, indicating that the electronic or digital link will provide access to an Internet website or other landing page by stating only ‘Scan here for more food information’, or equivalent language that only reflects technological changes; or

“(B) any telephone number disclosure, indicating that the telephone number will provide access to additional information by stating only ‘Call for more food information.’;

“(2) the electronic or digital link will provide access to the bioengineering disclosure located, in a consistent and conspicuous manner, on the first product information page that appears for the product on a mobile device, Internet website, or other landing page, which shall exclude marketing and promotional information;

“(3)(A) the electronic or digital link disclosure may not collect, analyze, or sell any personally identifiable information about consumers or the devices of consumers; but

“(B) if information described in subparagraph (A) must be collected to carry out the purposes of this subtitle, that information shall be deleted immediately and not used for any other purpose;

“(4) the electronic or digital link disclosure also includes a telephone number that provides access to the bioengineering disclosure; and

“(5) the electronic or digital link disclosure is of sufficient size to be easily and effectively scanned or read by a digital device.

“(e) **STATE FOOD LABELING STANDARDS.**—Notwithstanding section 295, no State or political subdivision of a State may directly or

indirectly establish under any authority or continue in effect as to any food in interstate commerce any requirement relating to the labeling or disclosure of whether a food is bioengineered or was developed or produced using bioengineering for a food that is the subject of the national bioengineered food disclosure standard under this section that is not identical to the mandatory disclosure requirement under that standard.

“(f) **CONSISTENCY WITH CERTAIN LAWS.**—The Secretary shall consider establishing consistency between—

“(1) the national bioengineered food disclosure standard established under this section; and

“(2) the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) and any rules or regulations implementing that Act.

“(g) **ENFORCEMENT.**—

“(1) **PROHIBITED ACT.**—It shall be a prohibited act for a person to knowingly fail to make a disclosure as required under this section.

“(2) **RECORDKEEPING.**—Each person subject to the mandatory disclosure requirement under this section shall maintain, and make available to the Secretary, on request, such records as the Secretary determines to be customary or reasonable in the food industry, by regulation, to establish compliance with this section.

“(3) **EXAMINATION AND AUDIT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may conduct an examination, audit, or similar activity with respect to any records required under paragraph (2).

“(B) **NOTICE AND HEARING.**—A person subject to an examination, audit, or similar activity under subparagraph (A) shall be provided notice and opportunity for a hearing on the results of any examination, audit, or similar activity.

“(C) **AUDIT RESULTS.**—After the notice and opportunity for a hearing under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall make public the summary of any examination, audit, or similar activity under subparagraph (A).

“(4) **RECALL AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary shall have no authority to recall any food subject to this subtitle on the basis of whether the food bears a disclosure that the food is bioengineered.

“**SEC. 294. SAVINGS PROVISIONS.**

“(a) **TRADE.**—This subtitle shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

“(b) **OTHER AUTHORITIES.**—Nothing in this subtitle—

“(1) affects the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services or creates any rights or obligations for any person under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); or

“(2) affects the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury or creates any rights or obligations for any person under the Federal Alcohol Administration Act (27 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

“(c) **OTHER.**—A food may not be considered to be ‘not bioengineered’, ‘non-GMO’, or any other similar claim describing the absence of bioengineering in the food solely because the food is not required to bear a disclosure that the food is bioengineered under this subtitle.

“**Subtitle F—Labeling of Certain Food**

“**SEC. 295. FEDERAL PREEMPTION.**

“(a) **DEFINITION OF FOOD.**—In this subtitle, the term ‘food’ has the meaning given the term in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

“(b) **FEDERAL PREEMPTION.**—No State or a political subdivision of a State may directly or indirectly establish under any authority or continue in effect as to any food or seed in interstate commerce any requirement relating to the labeling of whether a food (in-

cluding food served in a restaurant or similar establishment) or seed is genetically engineered (which shall include such other similar terms as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture) or was developed or produced using genetic engineering, including any requirement for claims that a food or seed is or contains an ingredient that was developed or produced using genetic engineering.

“**SEC. 296. EXCLUSION FROM FEDERAL PREEMPTION.**

“Nothing in this subtitle, subtitle E, or any regulation, rule, or requirement promulgated in accordance with this subtitle or subtitle E shall be construed to preempt any remedy created by a State or Federal statutory or common law right.”

SEC. 2. ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOOD.

In the case of a food certified under the national organic program established under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.), the certification shall be considered sufficient to make a claim regarding the absence of bioengineering in the food, such as “not bioengineered”, “non-GMO”, or another similar claim.

This Act shall take effect 2 days after the date of enactment.

SA 4938. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4937 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill S. 764, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall take effect 3 days after the date of enactment.

SA 4939. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4938 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the amendment SA 4937 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill S. 764, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”.

SA 4940. Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. NELSON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. SCHATZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2829, to amend and enhance certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Maritime Administration Authorization and Enhancement Act for Fiscal Year 2017”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION

Sec. 101. Authorization of the Maritime Administration.

Sec. 102. Maritime Administration authorization request.

TITLE II—PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT AT THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Sec. 201. Actions to address sexual harassment and sexual assault at the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Sec. 202. Sexual assault response coordinators and sexual assault victim advocates.

Sec. 203. Report from the Department of Transportation Inspector General.

Sec. 204. Sexual assault prevention and response working group.

TITLE III—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION ENHANCEMENT

Sec. 301. Status of National Defense Reserve Fleet vessels.

Sec. 302. Port infrastructure development.

Sec. 303. State maritime academy physical standards and reporting.

Sec. 304. Authority to extend certain age restrictions relating to vessels participating in the maritime security fleet.

Sec. 305. Appointments.

Sec. 306. High-speed craft classification services.

Sec. 307. Maritime workforce working group.

Sec. 308. Vessel disposal program.

Sec. 309. Maritime extreme weather task force.

TITLE IV—IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 401. Workforce plans and onboarding policies.

Sec. 402. Drug and alcohol policy.

Sec. 403. Vessel transfers.

TITLE V—TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

Sec. 501. Clarifying amendment; continuation boards.

Sec. 502. Prospective payment of funds necessary to provide medical care.

Sec. 503. Technical corrections to title 46, United States Code.

Sec. 504. Coast Guard use of the Pribilof Islands.

TITLE VI—POLAR ICEBREAKER FLEET RECAPITALIZATION TRANSPARENCY ACT

Sec. 601. Short title.

Sec. 602. Definitions.

Sec. 603. Polar icebreaker recapitalization plan.

Sec. 604. GAO report icebreaking capability in the United States.

TITLE VII—NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT PREVENTION ACT

Subtitle A—Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Sec. 711. Actions to address sexual harassment at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sec. 712. Actions to address sexual assault at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sec. 713. Rights of the victim of a sexual assault.

Sec. 714. Change of station.

Sec. 715. Applicability of policies to crews of vessels secured by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under contract.

Sec. 716. Annual report on sexual assaults in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sec. 717. Definition.

Subtitle B—Commissioned Officer Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Sec. 721. References to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002.

PART I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 722. Strength and distribution in grade.

Sec. 723. Recalled officers.
 Sec. 724. Obligated service requirement.
 Sec. 725. Training and physical fitness.
 Sec. 726. Recruiting materials.
 Sec. 727. Charter vessel safety policy.
 Sec. 728. Technical correction.

PART II—PARITY AND RECRUITMENT

Sec. 731. Education loans.
 Sec. 732. Interest payments.
 Sec. 733. Student pre-commissioning program.
 Sec. 734. Limitation on educational assistance.
 Sec. 735. Applicability of certain provisions of title 10, United States Code, and extension of certain authorities applicable to members of the Armed Forces to commissioned officer corps.
 Sec. 736. Applicability of certain provisions of title 37, United States Code.
 Sec. 737. Legion of Merit award.
 Sec. 738. Prohibition on retaliatory personnel actions.
 Sec. 739. Penalties for wearing uniform without authority.
 Sec. 740. Application of certain provisions of competitive service law.
 Sec. 741. Employment and reemployment rights.
 Sec. 742. Treatment of commission in commissioned officer corps for purposes of certain hiring decisions.
 Sec. 743. Direct hire authority.

PART III—APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTION OF OFFICERS

Sec. 751. Appointments.
 Sec. 752. Personnel boards.
 Sec. 753. Delegation of authority.
 Sec. 754. Assistant Administrator of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations.
 Sec. 755. Temporary appointments.
 Sec. 756. Officer candidates.
 Sec. 757. Procurement of personnel.

PART IV—SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT OF OFFICERS

Sec. 761. Involuntary retirement or separation.
 Sec. 762. Separation pay.
 Subtitle C—Hydrographic Services
 Sec. 771. Reauthorization of Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998.

TITLE I—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Transportation for fiscal year 2017, to be available without fiscal year limitation if so provided in appropriations Acts, for programs associated with maintaining the United States merchant marine, the following amounts:

(1) For expenses necessary for operations of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, \$99,902,000, of which—

(A) \$74,851,000 shall be for Academy operations; and

(B) \$25,051,000 shall remain available until expended for capital asset management at the Academy.

(2) For expenses necessary to support the State maritime academies, \$29,550,000, of which—

(A) \$2,400,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2018, for the Student Incentive Program;

(B) \$3,000,000 shall remain available until expended for direct payments to such academies;

(C) \$22,000,000 shall remain available until expended for maintenance and repair of State maritime academy training vessels;

(D) \$1,800,000 shall remain available until expended for training ship fuel assistance; and

(E) \$350,000 shall remain available until expended for expenses to improve the monitoring of the service obligations of graduates.

(3) For expenses necessary to support the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel Program, \$6,000,000, which shall remain available until expended.

(4) For expenses necessary to support Maritime Administration operations and programs, \$57,142,000.

(5) For expenses necessary to dispose of vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet, \$20,000,000, which shall remain available until expended.

(6) For the cost (as defined in section 502(5) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661a(5))) of loan guarantees under the program authorized by chapter 537 of title 46, United States Code, \$3,000,000, which shall remain available until expended for administrative expenses of the program.

SEC. 102. MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.

Section 109 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(k) SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for a fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Maritime Administrator shall submit a Maritime Administration authorization request with respect to such fiscal year to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

“(2) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the term ‘Maritime Administration authorization request’ means a proposal for legislation that, with respect to the Maritime Administration for the relevant fiscal year—

“(A) recommends authorizations of appropriations for that fiscal year; and

“(B) addresses any other matter that the Maritime Administrator determines is appropriate for inclusion in a Maritime Administration authorization bill.”.

TITLE II—PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT AT THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

SEC. 201. ACTIONS TO ADDRESS SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT AT THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY.

(a) POLICY.—Chapter 513 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 51318. Policy on sexual harassment and sexual assault

“(a) REQUIRED POLICY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall direct the Superintendent of the United States Merchant Marine Academy to prescribe a policy on sexual harassment and sexual assault applicable to the cadets and other personnel of the Academy.

“(2) MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN POLICY.—The policy on sexual harassment and sexual assault prescribed under this subsection shall include—

“(A) a program to promote awareness of the incidence of rape, acquaintance rape, and other sexual offenses of a criminal nature that involve cadets or other Academy personnel;

“(B) procedures that a cadet should follow in the case of an occurrence of sexual harassment or sexual assault, including—

“(i) specifying the person or persons to whom an alleged occurrence of sexual har-

assment or sexual assault should be reported by a cadet and the options for confidential reporting;

“(ii) specifying any other person whom the victim should contact; and

“(iii) procedures on the preservation of evidence potentially necessary for proof of criminal sexual assault;

“(C) a procedure for disciplinary action in cases of alleged criminal sexual assault involving a cadet or other Academy personnel;

“(D) any other sanction authorized to be imposed in a substantiated case of sexual harassment or sexual assault involving a cadet or other Academy personnel in rape, acquaintance rape, or any other criminal sexual offense, whether forcible or nonforcible; and

“(E) required training on the policy for all cadets and other Academy personnel, including the specific training required for personnel who process allegations of sexual harassment or sexual assault involving Academy personnel.

“(3) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—The Secretary shall ensure that the policy developed under this subsection is available to—

“(A) all cadets and employees of the Academy; and

“(B) the public.

“(4) CONSULTATION AND ASSISTANCE.—In developing the policy under this subsection, the Secretary may consult or receive assistance from such Federal, State, local, and national organizations and subject matter experts as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(b) DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall ensure that the development program of the United States Merchant Marine Academy includes a section that—

“(A) describes the relationship between honor, respect, and character development and the prevention of sexual harassment and sexual assault at the Academy; and

“(B) includes a brief history of the problem of sexual harassment and sexual assault in the merchant marine, in the Armed Forces, and at the Academy; and

“(C) includes information relating to reporting sexual harassment and sexual assault, victims' rights, and dismissal for offenders.

“(2) TRAINING.—The Superintendent of the Academy shall ensure that all cadets receive the training described in paragraph (1)—

“(A) not later than 7 days after their initial arrival at the Academy; and

“(B) biannually thereafter until they graduate or leave the Academy.

“(c) ANNUAL ASSESSMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation, in cooperation with the Superintendent of the Academy, shall conduct an assessment at the Academy during each Academy program year to determine the effectiveness of the policies, procedures, and training of the Academy with respect to sexual harassment and sexual assault involving cadets or other Academy personnel.

“(2) BIENNIAL SURVEY.—For each assessment of the Academy under paragraph (1) during an Academy program year that begins in an odd-numbered calendar year, the Secretary shall conduct a survey of cadets and other Academy personnel—

“(A) to measure—

“(i) the incidence, during that program year, of sexual harassment and sexual assault events, on or off the Academy campus, that have been reported to officials of the Academy; and

“(ii) the incidence, during that program year, of sexual harassment and sexual assault events, on or off the Academy campus, that have not been reported to officials of the Academy; and

“(B) to assess the perceptions of cadets and other Academy personnel on—

“(i) the policies, procedures, and training on sexual harassment and sexual assault involving cadets or Academy personnel;

“(ii) the enforcement of the policies described in clause (i);

“(iii) the incidence of sexual harassment and sexual assault involving cadets or Academy personnel; and

“(iv) any other issues relating to sexual harassment and sexual assault involving cadets or Academy personnel.

“(3) FOCUS GROUPS FOR YEARS WHEN SURVEY NOT REQUIRED.—In any year in which the Secretary of Transportation is not required to conduct the survey described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall conduct focus groups at the Academy for the purposes of ascertaining information relating to sexual assault and sexual harassment issues at the Academy.

“(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Superintendent of the Academy shall submit a report to the Secretary of Transportation that provides information about sexual harassment and sexual assault involving cadets or other personnel at the Academy for each Academy program year.

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include, for the Academy program year covered by the report—

“(A) the number of sexual assaults, rapes, and other sexual offenses involving cadets or other Academy personnel that have been reported to Academy officials;

“(B) the number of the reported cases described in subparagraph (A) that have been substantiated;

“(C) the policies, procedures, and training implemented by the Superintendent and the leadership of the Academy in response to sexual harassment and sexual assault involving cadets or other Academy personnel; and

“(D) a plan for the actions that will be taken in the following Academy program year regarding prevention of, and response to, sexual harassment and sexual assault involving cadets or other Academy personnel.

“(3) SURVEY AND FOCUS GROUP RESULTS.—

“(A) SURVEY RESULTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) for an Academy program year that begins in an odd-numbered calendar year shall include the results of the survey conducted in that program year under subsection (c)(2).

“(B) FOCUS GROUP RESULTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) for an Academy program year in which the Secretary of Transportation is not required to conduct the survey described (c)(2) shall include the results of the focus group conducted in that program year under subsection (c)(3).

“(4) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) BY THE SUPERINTENDENT.—For each incident of sexual harassment or sexual assault reported to the Superintendent under this subsection, the Superintendent shall provide the Secretary of Transportation and the Board of Visitors of the Academy with a report that includes—

“(i) the facts surrounding the incident, except for any details that would reveal the identities of the people involved; and

“(ii) the Academy's response to the incident.

“(B) BY THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall submit a copy of each report received under subparagraph (A) and the Secretary's comments on the report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 513 of title 46, United

States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“51318. Policy on sexual harassment and sexual assault.”.

SEC. 202. SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATORS AND SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM ADVOCATES.

(a) COORDINATORS AND ADVOCATES.—Chapter 513 of title 46, United States Code, as amended by section 201, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 51319. Sexual assault response coordinators and sexual assault victim advocates

“(a) SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATORS.—The United States Merchant Marine Academy shall employ or contract with at least 1 full-time sexual assault response coordinator who shall reside on or near the Academy. The Secretary of Transportation may assign additional full-time or part-time sexual assault response coordinators at the Academy as may be necessary.

“(b) VOLUNTEER SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM ADVOCATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Superintendent of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, shall designate 1 or more permanent employees who volunteer to serve as advocates for victims of sexual assaults involving—

“(A) cadets of the Academy; or

“(B) individuals who work with or conduct business on behalf of the Academy.

“(2) TRAINING; OTHER DUTIES.—Each victim advocate designated under this subsection shall—

“(A) have or receive training in matters relating to sexual assault and the comprehensive policy developed under section 51318 of title 46, United States Code; and

“(B) serve as a victim advocate voluntarily, in addition to the individual's other duties as an employee of the Academy.

“(3) PRIMARY DUTIES.—While performing the duties of a victim advocate under this subsection, a designated employee shall—

“(A) support victims of sexual assault by informing them of the rights and resources available to them as victims;

“(B) identify additional resources to ensure the safety of victims of sexual assault; and

“(C) connect victims of sexual assault to an Academy sexual assault response coordinator, or full-time or part-time victim advocate, who shall act as a companion in navigating investigative, medical, mental and emotional health, and recovery processes relating to sexual assault.

“(4) COMPANION.—At least 1 victim advocate designated under this subsection, while performing the duties of a victim advocate, shall act as a companion in navigating investigative, medical, mental and emotional health, and recovery processes relating to sexual assault.

“(5) HOTLINE.—The Secretary shall establish a 24-hour hotline through which the victim of a sexual assault can receive victim support services.

“(6) FORMAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—The Secretary may enter into formal relationships with other entities to make available additional victim advocates or to implement paragraphs (3), (4), and (5).

“(7) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Information disclosed by a victim to an advocate designated under this subsection—

“(A) shall be treated by the advocate as confidential; and

“(B) may not be disclosed by the advocate without the consent of the victim.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 513 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“51319. Sexual assault response coordinators and sexual assault victim advocates.”.

SEC. 203. REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR GENERAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 31, 2018, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that describes the effectiveness of the sexual harassment and sexual assault prevention and response program at the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) assess progress toward addressing any outstanding recommendations;

(2) include any recommendations to reduce the number of sexual assaults involving members of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, whether a member is the victim, the alleged assailant, or both;

(3) include any recommendations to improve the response of the Department of Transportation and the United States Merchant Marine Academy to reports of sexual assaults involving members of the Academy, whether a members is the victim, the alleged assailant, or both.

(c) EXPERTISE.—In compiling the report required under this section, the inspection teams acting under the direction of the Inspector General shall—

(1) include at least 1 member with expertise and knowledge of sexual assault prevention and response policies; or

(2) consult with subject matter experts in the prevention of and response to sexual assaults.

SEC. 204. SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Maritime Administrator shall convene a working group to examine methods to improve the prevention of, and response to, any sexual harassment or sexual assault that occurs during a Cadet's Sea Year experience with the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Maritime Administrator shall designate individuals to serve as members of the working group convened pursuant to subsection (a). Membership in the working group shall consist of—

(1) a representative of the Maritime Administration, which shall serve as chair of the working group;

(2) the Superintendent of the Academy, or designee;

(3) the sexual assault response coordinator appointed under section 51319 of title 46, United States Code, as added by section 202;

(4) a subject matter expert from the Coast Guard;

(5) a subject matter expert from the Military Sealift Command;

(6) at least 1 representative from each of the State maritime academies;

(7) at least 1 representative from each private contracting party participating in the maritime security program;

(8) at least 1 representative from each non-profit labor organization representing a class or craft of employees employed on vessels in the Maritime Security Fleet;

(9) at least 2 representatives from approved maritime training institutions; and

(10) at least 1 representative from companies that—

(A) participate in sea training of Academy cadets; and

(B) do not participate in the maritime security program.

(c) NO QUORUM REQUIREMENT.—The Maritime Administration may convene the working group without all members present.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The working group shall—

(1) evaluate options that could promote a climate of honor and respect, and a culture that is intolerant of sexual harassment and sexual assault and those who commit it, across the United States Flag Fleet;

(2) raise awareness of the United States Merchant Marine Academy's sexual assault prevention and response program across the United States Flag Fleet;

(3) assess options that could be implemented by the United States Flag Fleet that would remove any barriers to the reporting of sexual harassment and sexual assault response that occur during a Cadet's Sea Year experience and protect the victim's confidentiality;

(4) assess a potential program or policy, applicable to all participants of the maritime security program, to improve the prevention of, and response to, sexual harassment and sexual assault incidents;

(5) assess a potential program or policy, applicable to all vessels operating in the United States Flag Fleet that participate in the Maritime Security Fleet under section 53101 of title 46, United States Code, which carry cargos to which chapter 531 of such title applies, or are chartered by a Federal agency, requiring crews to complete a sexual harassment and sexual assault prevention and response training program before the Cadet's Sea Year that includes—

(A) fostering a shipboard climate—

(i) that does not tolerate sexual harassment and sexual assault;

(ii) in which persons assigned to vessel crews are encouraged to intervene to prevent potential incidents of sexual harassment or sexual assault; and

(iii) that encourages victims of sexual assault to report any incident of sexual harassment or sexual assault; and

(B) understanding the needs of, and the resources available to, a victim after an incident of sexual harassment or sexual assault;

(6) assess whether the United States Merchant Marine Academy should continue with sea year training on privately owned vessels or change its curricula to provide alternative training; and

(7) assess how vessel operators could ensure the confidentiality of a report of sexual harassment or sexual assault in order to protect the victim and prevent retribution.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 15 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that includes—

(1) recommendations on each of the working group's responsibilities described in subsection (d);

(2) the trade-offs, opportunities, and challenges associated with the recommendations made in paragraph (1); and

(3) any other information the working group determines appropriate.

TITLE III—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION ENHANCEMENT

SEC. 301. STATUS OF NATIONAL DEFENSE RESERVE FLEET VESSELS.

Section 4405 of title 50, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following: "Vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet, including vessels loaned to State maritime academies, shall be considered public vessels of the United States."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(g) VESSEL STATUS.—Ships or other watercraft in the National Defense Reserve Fleet determined by the Maritime Administration to be of insufficient value to remain in the National Defense Reserve Fleet—

"(1) shall remain vessels (as defined in section 3 of title 1); and

"(2) shall remain subject to the rights and responsibilities of a vessel under admiralty law until such time as the vessel is delivered to a dismantling facility or is otherwise disposed of from the National Defense Reserve Fleet.".

SEC. 302. PORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.

Section 50302(c)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "There are authorized" and inserting the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Except as otherwise provided by law, the Administrator may use not more than 3 percent of the amounts appropriated to carry out this section for the administrative expenses of the program.".

SEC. 303. STATE MARITIME ACADEMY PHYSICAL STANDARDS AND REPORTING.

Section 51506 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "must" and inserting "shall";

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" at the end;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) agree that any individual enrolled at such State maritime academy in a merchant marine officer preparation program—

"(A) shall, not later than 9 months after each such individual's date of enrollment, pass an examination in form and substance satisfactory to the Secretary that demonstrates that such individual meets the medical and physical requirements—

"(i) required for the issuance of an original license under section 7101; or

"(ii) set by the Coast Guard for issuing merchant mariners' documentation under section 7302, with no limit to his or her operational authority;

"(B) following passage of the examination under subparagraph (A), shall continue to meet the requirements or standards described in subparagraph (A) throughout the remainder of their respective enrollments at the State maritime academy; and

"(C) if the individual has a medical or physical condition that disqualifies him or her from meeting the requirements or standards referred to in subparagraph (A), shall be transferred to a program other than a merchant marine officer preparation program, or otherwise appropriately disenrolled from such State maritime academy, until the individual demonstrates to the Secretary that the individual meets such requirements or standards.";

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(c) SECRETARIAL WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary is authorized to modify or waive any of the terms set forth in subsection (a)(4) with respect to any individual or State maritime academy.".

SEC. 304. AUTHORITY TO EXTEND CERTAIN AGE RESTRICTIONS RELATING TO VESSELS PARTICIPATING IN THE MARITIME SECURITY FLEET.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 53102 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) AUTHORITY FOR EXTENSION OF MAXIMUM SERVICE AGE FOR A PARTICIPATING

FLEET VESSEL.—The Secretary of Defense, in conjunction with the Secretary of Transportation, may extend the maximum age restrictions under sections 53101(5)(A)(ii) and 53106(c)(3) for a particular participating fleet vessel for up to 5 years if the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation jointly determine that such extension is in the national interest."

(b) REPEAL OF UNNECESSARY AGE LIMITATION.—Section 53106(c)(3) of such title is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "or (C);" and inserting "; or";

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking "; or" at the end and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking subparagraph (C).

SEC. 305. APPOINTMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 51303 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking "40" and inserting "50".

(b) CLASS PROFILE.—Not later than August 31 of each year, the Superintendent of the United States Merchant Marine Academy shall post on the Academy's public website a summary profile of each class at the Academy.

(c) CONTENTS.—Each summary profile posted under subsection (b) shall include, for the incoming class and for the 4 classes that precede the incoming class, the number and percentage of students—

(1) by State;

(2) by country;

(3) by gender;

(4) by race and ethnicity; and

(5) with prior military service.

SEC. 306. HIGH-SPEED CRAFT CLASSIFICATION SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 3316(a) of title 46, United States Code, the Secretary of the Navy may use the services of an approved classification society for only a high-speed craft that—

(1) was acquired by the Secretary from the Maritime Administration;

(2) is not a high-speed naval combatant, patrol vessel, expeditionary vessel, or other special purpose military or law enforcement vessel;

(3) is operated for commercial purposes;

(4) is not operated or crewed by any department, agency, instrumentality, or employee of the United States Government;

(5) is not directly engaged in any mission or other operation for or on behalf of any department, agency, instrumentality, or employee of the United States Government; and

(6) is not primarily designed to carry freight owned, leased, used, or contracted for or by the United States Government.

(b) DEFINITION OF APPROVED CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY.—In this section, the term "approved classification society" means a classification society that has been approved by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating under section 3316(c) of title 46, United States Code.

(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the requirements under section 3316 of title 46, United States Code, for a high-speed craft that does not meet the conditions under paragraphs (1) through (6) of subsection (a).

SEC. 307. MARITIME WORKFORCE WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall convene a working group to examine and assess the size of the pool of citizen mariners necessary to support the United States Flag Fleet in times of national emergency.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Maritime Administrator shall designate individuals to serve as members of the working group convened under subsection (a). The working group

shall include, at a minimum, the following members:

(1) At least 1 representative of the Maritime Administration, who shall serve as chairperson of the working group.

(2) At least 1 subject matter expert from the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

(3) At least 1 subject matter expert from the Coast Guard.

(4) At least 1 subject matter expert from the Military Sealift Command.

(5) 1 subject matter expert from each of the State maritime academies.

(6) At least 1 representative from each non-profit labor organization representing a class or craft of employees (licensed or unlicensed) who are employed on vessels operating in the United States Flag Fleet.

(7) At least 4 representatives of owners of vessels operating in the United States Flag Fleet, or their private contracting parties, which are primarily operating in non-contiguous or coastwise trades.

(8) At least 4 representatives of owners of vessels operating in the United States Flag Fleet, or their private contracting parties, which are primarily operating in international transportation.

(c) NO QUORUM REQUIREMENT.—The Maritime Administration may convene the working group without all members present.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The working group shall—

(1) identify the number of United States citizen mariners—

(A) in total;

(B) that have a valid United States Coast Guard merchant mariner credential with the necessary endorsements for service on unlimited tonnage vessels subject to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended;

(C) that are involved in Federal programs that support the United States Merchant Marine and United States Flag Fleet;

(D) that are available to crew the United States Flag Fleet and the surge sealift fleet in times of a national emergency;

(E) that are full-time mariners;

(F) that have sailed in the prior 18 months; and

(G) that are primarily operating in non-contiguous or coastwise trades;

(2) assess the impact on the United States Merchant Marine and United States Merchant Marine Academy if graduates from State maritime academies and the United States Merchant Marine Academy were assigned to, or required to fulfill, certain maritime positions based on the overall needs of the United States Merchant Marine;

(3) assess the Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Licensing and Documentation System, which tracks merchant mariner credentials and medical certificates, and its accessibility and value to the Maritime Administration for the purposes of evaluating the pool of United States citizen mariners; and

(4) make recommendations to enhance the availability and quality of interagency data, including data from the United States Transportation Command, the Coast Guard, and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, for use by the Maritime Administration for evaluating the pool of United States citizen mariners.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that contains the results of the study conducted under this section, including—

(1) the number of United States citizen mariners identified for each category described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of subsection (d)(1);

(2) the results of the assessments conducted under paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (d); and

(3) the recommendations made under subsection (d)(4).

SEC. 308. VESSEL DISPOSAL PROGRAM.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than January 1 of each year, the Administrator of the Maritime Administration shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the management of the vessel disposal program of the Maritime Administration.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the total amount of funds credited in the prior fiscal year to—

(A) the Vessel Operations Revolving Fund established by section 50301(a) of title 46, United States Code; and

(B) any other account attributable to the vessel disposal program of the Maritime Administration;

(2) the balance of funds available at the end of that fiscal year in—

(A) the Vessel Operations Revolving Fund; and

(B) any other account described in paragraph (1)(B);

(3) in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the total number of—

(A) grant applications under the National Maritime Heritage Grants Program in the prior fiscal year; and

(B) the applications under subparagraph (A) that were approved by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Maritime Initiative of the National Park Service;

(4) a detailed description of each project funded under the National Maritime Heritage Grants Program in the prior fiscal year for which funds from the Vessel Operations Revolving Funds were obligated, including the information described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of section 308703(j) of title 54, United States Code; and

(5) a detailed description of the funds credited to and distributions from the Vessel Operations Revolving Funds in the prior fiscal year.

(c) ASSESSMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter, the Administrator shall assess the vessel disposal program of the Maritime Administration.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each assessment under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an inventory of each vessel, subject to a disposal agreement, for which the Maritime Administration acts as the disposal agent, including—

(i) the age of the vessel; and

(ii) the name of the Federal agency with which the Maritime Administration has entered into a disposal agreement;

(B) a description of each vessel of a Federal agency that may meet the criteria for the Maritime Administration to act as the disposal agent, including—

(i) the age of the vessel; and

(ii) the name of the applicable Federal agency;

(C) the Maritime Administration's plan to serve as the disposal agent, as appropriate, for the vessels described in subparagraph (B); and

(D) any other information related to the vessel disposal program that the Administrator determines appropriate.

(d) CESSATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—This section ceases to be effective on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 309. MARITIME EXTREME WEATHER TASK FORCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE.—Not later than 15 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall establish a task force to analyze the impact of extreme weather events, such as in the maritime environment (referred to in this section as the "Task Force").

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall be composed of—

(1) the Secretary or the Secretary's designee; and

(2) a representative of—

(A) the Coast Guard;

(B) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(C) the Federal Maritime Commission; and

(D) such other Federal agency or independent commission as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (4), not later than 180 days after the date it is established under subsection (a), the Task Force shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the analysis under subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an identification of available weather prediction, monitoring, and routing technology resources;

(B) an identification of industry best practices relating to response to, and prevention of marine casualties from, extreme weather events;

(C) a description of how the resources described in subparagraph (A) are used in the various maritime sectors, including by passenger and cargo vessels;

(D) recommendations for improving maritime response operations to extreme weather events and preventing marine casualties from extreme weather events, such as promoting the use of risk communications and the technologies identified under subparagraph (A); and

(E) recommendations for any legislative or regulatory actions for improving maritime response operations to extreme weather events and preventing marine casualties from extreme weather events.

(3) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make the report under paragraph (1) and any notification under paragraph (4) publicly accessible in an electronic format.

(4) IMMINENT THREATS.—The Task Force shall immediately notify the Secretary of any finding or recommendations that could protect the safety of an individual on a vessel from an imminent threat of extreme weather.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

TITLE IV—IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 401. WORKFORCE PLANS AND ONBOARDING POLICIES.

(a) WORKFORCE PLANS.—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Maritime Administrator shall review the Maritime Administration's workforce plans, including its Strategic Human Capital Plan and Leadership Succession Plan, and fully implement competency models for mission-critical occupations, including—

- (1) leadership positions;
- (2) human resources positions; and
- (3) transportation specialist positions.

(b) **ONBOARDING POLICIES.**—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

(1) review the Maritime Administration's policies related to new hire orientation, training, and misconduct policies;

(2) align the onboarding policies and procedures at headquarters and the field offices to ensure consistent implementation and provision of critical information across the Maritime Administration; and

(3) update the Maritime Administration's training policies and training systems to include controls that ensure that all completed training is tracked in a standardized training repository.

(c) **ONBOARDING POLICIES.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that describes the Maritime Administration's compliance with the requirements under this section.

SEC. 402. DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY.

(a) **REVIEW.**—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Maritime Administrator shall—

(1) review the Maritime Administration's drug and alcohol policies, procedures, and training practices;

(2) ensure that all fleet managers have received training on the Department of Transportation's drug and alcohol policy, including the testing procedures used by the Department and the Maritime Administration in cases of reasonable suspicion; and

(3) institute a system for tracking all drug and alcohol policy training conducted under paragraph (2) in a standardized training repository.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that describes the Maritime Administration's compliance with the requirements under this section.

SEC. 403. VESSEL TRANSFERS.

Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Maritime Administrator shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that describes the policies and procedures for vessel transfer, including—

(1) a summary of the actions taken to update the Vessel Transfer Office procedures manual to reflect the current range of program responsibilities and processes; and

(2) a copy of the updated Vessel Transfer Office procedures to process vessel transfer applications.

TITLE V—TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

SEC. 501. CLARIFYING AMENDMENT; CONTINUATION BOARDS.

Section 290(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking “five officers serving in the grade of vice admiral” and inserting “5 officers (other than the Commandant) serving in the grade of admiral or vice admiral”.

SEC. 502. PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT OF FUNDS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 520. Prospective payment of funds necessary to provide medical care

“(a) **PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT REQUIRED.**—In lieu of the reimbursement required under section 1085 of title 10, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall make a prospective payment to the Secretary of Defense of an amount that represents the actuarial valuation of treatment or care—

“(1) that the Department of Defense shall provide to members of the Coast Guard, former members of the Coast Guard, and dependents of such members and former members (other than former members and dependents of former members who are a Medicare-eligible beneficiary or for whom the payment for treatment or care is made from the Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund) at facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense or a military department; and

“(2) for which a reimbursement would otherwise be made under such section 1085.

“(b) **AMOUNT.**—The amount of the prospective payment under subsection (a)—

“(1) shall be derived from amounts appropriated for the operating expenses of the Coast Guard for treatment or care provided to members of the Coast Guard and their dependents;

“(2) shall be derived from amounts appropriated for retired pay for treatment or care provided to former members of the Coast Guard and their dependents;

“(3) shall be determined under procedures established by the Secretary of Defense;

“(4) shall be paid during the fiscal year in which treatment or care is provided; and

“(5) shall be subject to adjustment or reconciliation, as the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Defense jointly determine appropriate, during or promptly after such fiscal year if the prospective payment is determined excessive or insufficient based on the services actually provided.

“(c) **NO PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT WHEN SERVICE IN NAVY.**—No prospective payment shall be made under this section for any period during which the Coast Guard operates as a service in the Navy.

“(d) **RELATIONSHIP TO TRICARE.**—This section may not be construed to require a payment for, or the prospective payment of an amount that represents the value of, treatment or care provided under any TRICARE program.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The analysis for chapter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 520. Prospective payment of funds necessary to provide medical care.”.

(c) **REPEAL.**—Section 217 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-120) and the item relating to that section in the table of contents in section 2 of such Act, are repealed.

SEC. 503. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 46, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 4503(f)(2), by striking “that” after “necessary,”; and

(2) in section 7510(c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking “engine” and inserting “engineer”; and

(B) in paragraph (9), by inserting a period after “App”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-120).

SEC. 504. COAST GUARD USE OF THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 522(a)(1) of the Pribilof Island Transition Completion Act of

2015 (subtitle B of title V of Public Law 114-120) is amended by striking “Lots” and inserting “Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, lots”.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the Maritime Administration Authorization and Enhancement Act for Fiscal Year 2017, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that describes—

(1) the Coast Guard's use of Tracts 43 and 39, located on St. Paul Island, Alaska, since operation of the LORAN-C system was terminated;

(2) the Coast Guard's plans for using the tracts described in paragraph (1) during fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018; and

(3) the Coast Guard's plans for using the tracts described in paragraph (1) and other facilities on St. Paul Island after fiscal year 2018.

TITLE VI—POLAR ICEBREAKER FLEET RECAPITALIZATION TRANSPARENCY ACT

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Polar Icebreaker Fleet Recapitalization Transparency Act”.

SEC. 602. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(2) **SECRETARY.**—Except as otherwise specifically provided, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

SEC. 603. POLAR ICEBREAKER RECAPITALIZATION PLAN.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Navy, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, a detailed recapitalization plan to meet the 2013 Department of Homeland Security Mission Need Statement.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The plan required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) detail the number of heavy and medium polar icebreakers required to meet Coast Guard statutory missions in the polar regions;

(2) identify the vessel specifications, capabilities, systems, equipment, and other details required for the design of heavy polar icebreakers capable of fulfilling the mission requirements of the Coast Guard and the Navy, and the requirements of other agencies and department of the United States, as the Secretary determines appropriate;

(3) list the specific appropriations required for the acquisition of each icebreaker, for each fiscal year, until the full fleet is recapitalized;

(4) describe the potential savings of serial acquisition for new polar class icebreakers, including specific schedule and acquisition requirements needed to realize such savings;

(5) describe any polar icebreaking capacity gaps that may arise based on the current fleet and current procurement outlook; and

(6) describe any additional polar icebreaking capability gaps due to any further delay in procurement schedules.

SEC. 604. GAO REPORT ICEBREAKING CAPABILITY IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the current state of the United States Federal polar icebreaking fleet.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an analysis of the icebreaking assets in operation in the United States and a description of the missions completed by such assets;

(2) an analysis of how such assets and the capabilities of such assets are consistent, or inconsistent, with the polar icebreaking mission requirements described in the 2013 Department of Homeland Security Mission Need Statement, the Naval Operations Concept 2010, or other military and civilian governmental missions in the United States;

(3) an analysis of the gaps in icebreaking capability of the United States based on the expected service life of the fleet of United States icebreaking assets;

(4) a list of countries that are allies of the United States that have the icebreaking capacity to exercise missions in the Arctic during any identified gap in United States icebreaking capacity in a polar region; and

(5) a description of the policy, financial, and other barriers that have prevented timely recapitalization of the Coast Guard polar icebreaking fleet and recommendations to overcome such barriers, including potential international fee-based models used to compensate governments for icebreaking escorts or maintenance of maritime routes.

TITLE VII—NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT PREVENTION ACT**SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Act”.

Subtitle A—Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**SEC. 711. ACTIONS TO ADDRESS SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**

(a) **REQUIRED POLICY.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall, acting through the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, develop a policy on the prevention of and response to sexual harassment involving employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, members of the commissioned officer corps of the Administration, and individuals who work with or conduct business on behalf of the Administration.

(b) **MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN POLICY.**—The policy developed under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) establishment of a program to promote awareness of the incidence of sexual harassment;

(2) clear procedures an individual should follow in the case of an occurrence of sexual harassment, including—

(A) a specification of the person or persons to whom an alleged occurrence of sexual harassment should be reported by an individual and options for confidential reporting, including—

(i) options and contact information for after-hours contact; and

(ii) procedure for obtaining assistance and reporting sexual harassment while working in a remote scientific field camp, at sea, or in another field status; and

(B) a specification of any other person whom the victim should contact;

(3) establishment of a mechanism by which—

(A) questions regarding sexual harassment can be confidentially asked and confidentially answered; and

(B) incidents of sexual harassment can be confidentially reported; and

(4) a prohibition on retaliation and consequences for retaliatory actions.

(c) **CONSULTATION AND ASSISTANCE.**—In developing the policy required by subsection (a), the Secretary may consult or receive assistance from such State, local, and national organizations and subject matter experts as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) **AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the policy developed under subsection (a) is available to—

(1) all employees of the Administration and members of the commissioned officer corps of the Administration, including those employees and members who conduct field work for the Administration; and

(2) the public.

(e) **GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PERSONNEL.**—The Secretary shall ensure that at least 1 employee of the Administration who is tasked with handling matters relating to equal employment opportunity or sexual harassment is stationed—

(1) in each region in which the Administration conducts operations; and

(2) in each marine and aviation center of the Administration.

(f) **QUARTERLY REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not less frequently than 4 times each year, the Director of the Civil Rights Office of the Administration shall submit to the Under Secretary a report on sexual harassment in the Administration.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Number of sexual harassment cases, both actionable and non-actionable, involving individuals covered by the policy developed under subsection (a).

(B) Number of open actionable sexual harassment cases and how long the cases have been open.

(C) Such trends or region specific issues as the Director may have discovered with respect to sexual harassment in the Administration.

(D) Such recommendations as the Director may have with respect to sexual harassment in the Administration.

SEC. 712. ACTIONS TO ADDRESS SEXUAL ASSAULT AT NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall, acting through the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, develop a comprehensive policy on the prevention of and response to sexual assaults involving employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, members of the commissioned officer corps of the Administration, and individuals who work with or conduct business on behalf of the Administration.

(b) **ELEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE POLICY.**—The comprehensive policy developed under subsection (a) shall, at minimum, address the following matters:

(1) Prevention measures.

(2) Education and training on prevention and response.

(3) A list of support resources an individual may use in the occurrence of sexual assault, including—

(A) options and contact information for after-hours contact; and

(B) procedure for obtaining assistance and reporting sexual assault while working in a remote scientific field camp, at sea, or in another field status.

(4) Easy and ready availability of information described in paragraph (3).

(5) Establishing a mechanism by which—

(A) questions regarding sexual assault can be confidentially asked and confidentially answered; and

(B) incidents of sexual assault can be confidentially reported.

(6) Protocols for the investigation of complaints by command and law enforcement personnel.

(7) Prohibiting retaliation and consequences for retaliatory actions against someone who reports a sexual assault.

(8) Oversight by the Under Secretary of administrative and disciplinary actions in response to substantial incidents of sexual assault.

(9) Victim advocacy, including establishment of and the responsibilities and training requirements for victim advocates as described in subsection (c).

(10) Availability of resources for victims of sexual assault within other Federal agencies and State, local, and national organizations.

(c) **VICTIM ADVOCACY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary, shall establish victim advocates to advocate for victims of sexual assaults involving employees of the Administration, members of the commissioned officer corps of the Administration, and individuals who work with or conduct business on behalf of the Administration.

(2) **VICTIM ADVOCATES.**—For purposes of this subsection, a victim advocate is a permanent employee of the Administration who—

(A) is trained in matters relating to sexual assault and the comprehensive policy developed under subsection (a); and

(B) serves as a victim advocate voluntarily and in addition to the employee's other duties as an employee of the Administration.

(3) **PRIMARY DUTIES.**—The primary duties of a victim advocate established under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Supporting victims of sexual assault and informing them of their rights and the resources available to them as victims.

(B) Acting as a companion in navigating investigative, medical, mental and emotional health, and recovery processes relating to sexual assault.

(C) Helping to identify resources to ensure the safety of victims of sexual assault.

(4) **LOCATION.**—The Secretary shall ensure that at least 1 victim advocate established under paragraph (1) is stationed—

(A) in each region in which the Administration conducts operations; and

(B) in each marine and aviation center of the Administration.

(5) **HOTLINE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall establish a telephone number at which a victim of a sexual assault can contact a victim advocate.

(B) **24-HOUR ACCESS.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the telephone number established under subparagraph (A) is monitored at all times.

(6) **FORMAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ENTITIES.**—The Secretary may enter into formal relationships with other entities to make available additional victim advocates.

(d) **AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the policy developed under subsection (a) is available to—

(1) all employees of the Administration and members of the commissioned officer corps of the Administration, including those employees and members who conduct field work for the Administration; and

(2) the public.

(e) CONSULTATION AND ASSISTANCE.—In developing the policy required by subsection (a), the Secretary may consult or receive assistance from such State, local, and national organizations and subject matter experts as the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 713. RIGHTS OF THE VICTIM OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT.

A victim of a sexual assault covered by the comprehensive policy developed under section 712(a) has the right to be reasonably protected from the accused.

SEC. 714. CHANGE OF STATION.

(a) CHANGE OF STATION, UNIT TRANSFER, OR CHANGE OF WORK LOCATION OF VICTIMS.—

(1) TIMELY CONSIDERATION AND ACTION UPON REQUEST.—The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall—

(A) in the case of a member of the commissioned officer corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who was a victim of a sexual assault, in order to reduce the possibility of retaliation or further sexual assault, provide for timely determination and action on an application submitted by the victim for consideration of a change of station or unit transfer of the victim; and

(B) in the case of an employee of the Administration who was a victim of a sexual assault, to the degree practicable and in order to reduce the possibility of retaliation against the employee for reporting the sexual assault, accommodate a request for a change of work location of the victim.

(2) PROCEDURES.—

(A) PERIOD FOR APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary, shall ensure that an application or request submitted under paragraph (1) for a change of station, unit transfer, or change of work location is approved or denied within 72 hours of the submission of the application or request.

(B) REVIEW.—If an application or request submitted under paragraph (1) by a victim of a sexual assault for a change of station, unit transfer, or change of work location of the victim is denied—

(i) the victim may request the Secretary review the denial; and

(ii) the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary, shall, not later than 72 hours after receiving such request, affirm or overturn the denial.

(b) CHANGE OF STATION, UNIT TRANSFER, AND CHANGE OF WORK LOCATION OF ALLEGED PERPETRATORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary, shall develop a policy for the protection of victims of sexual assault described in subsection (a)(1) by providing the alleged perpetrator of the sexual assault with a change of station, unit transfer, or change of work location, as the case may be, if the alleged perpetrator is a member of the commissioned officer corps of the Administration or an employee of the Administration.

(2) POLICY REQUIREMENTS.—The policy required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A means to control access to the victim.

(B) Due process for the victim and the alleged perpetrator.

(c) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section.

(2) CONSISTENCY.—When practicable, the Secretary shall make regulations promulgated under this section consistent with similar regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 715. APPLICABILITY OF POLICIES TO CREWS OF VESSELS SECURED BY NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION UNDER CONTRACT.

The Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere shall ensure that each contract into which the Under Secretary enters for the use of a vessel by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that covers the crew of the vessel, if any, shall include as a condition of the contract a provision that subjects such crew to the policy developed under section 711(a) and the comprehensive policy developed under section 712(a).

SEC. 716. ANNUAL REPORT ON SEXUAL ASSAULTS IN THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 15 of each year, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on the sexual assaults involving employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, members of the commissioned officer corps of the Administration, and individuals who work with or conduct business on behalf of the Administration.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall include, with respect to the previous calendar year, the following:

(1) The number of alleged sexual assaults involving employees, members, and individuals described in subsection (a).

(2) A synopsis of each case and the disciplinary action taken, if any, in each case.

(3) The policies, procedures, and processes implemented by the Secretary, and any updates or revisions to such policies, procedures, and processes.

(4) A summary of the reports received by the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere under section 711(f).

(c) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—In preparing and submitting a report under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that no individual involved in an alleged sexual assault can be identified by the contents of the report.

SEC. 717. DEFINITION.

In this subtitle, the term “sexual assault” shall have the meaning given such term in section 40002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13925(a)).

Subtitle B—Commissioned Officer Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

SEC. 721. REFERENCES TO NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS ACT OF 2002.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this subtitle an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

PART I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 722. STRENGTH AND DISTRIBUTION IN GRADE.

Section 214 (33 U.S.C. 3004) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 214. STRENGTH AND DISTRIBUTION IN GRADE.

“(a) GRADES.—The commissioned grades in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration are the following, in relative rank with officers of the Navy:

“(1) Vice admiral.

“(2) Rear admiral.

“(3) Rear admiral (lower half).

“(4) Captain.

“(5) Commander.

“(6) Lieutenant commander.

“(7) Lieutenant.

“(8) Lieutenant (junior grade).

“(9) Ensign.

“(b) GRADE DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall prescribe, with respect to the distribution on the lineal list in grade, the percentages applicable to the grades set forth in subsection (a).

“(c) ANNUAL COMPUTATION OF NUMBER IN GRADE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall make a computation to determine the number of officers on the lineal list authorized to be serving in each grade.

“(2) METHOD OF COMPUTATION.—The number in each grade shall be computed by applying the applicable percentage to the total number of such officers serving on active duty on the date the computation is made.

“(3) FRACTIONS.—If a final fraction occurs in computing the authorized number of officers in a grade, the nearest whole number shall be taken. If the fraction is $\frac{1}{2}$, the next higher whole number shall be taken.

“(d) TEMPORARY INCREASE IN NUMBERS.—The total number of officers authorized by law to be on the lineal list during a fiscal year may be temporarily exceeded if the average number on that list during that fiscal year does not exceed the authorized number.

“(e) POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY.—Officers serving in positions designated under section 228(a) and officers recalled from retired status shall not be counted when computing authorized strengths under subsection (c) and shall not count against those strengths.

“(f) PRESERVATION OF GRADE AND PAY.—No officer may be reduced in grade or pay or separated from the commissioned officer corps of the Administration as the result of a computation made to determine the authorized number of officers in the various grades.”.

SEC. 723. RECALLED OFFICERS.

Section 215 (33 U.S.C. 3005) is amended—

(1) in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking “Effective” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY.—Officers serving in positions designated under section 228 and officers recalled from retired status—

“(1) may not be counted in determining the total number of authorized officers on the lineal list under this section; and

“(2) may not count against such number.”.

SEC. 724. OBLIGATED SERVICE REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A (33 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 216. OBLIGATED SERVICE REQUIREMENT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary shall prescribe the obligated service requirements for appointments, training, promotions, separations, continuations, and retirement of officers not otherwise covered by law.

“(2) WRITTEN AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary and officers shall enter into written agreements that describe the officers’ obligated service requirements prescribed under paragraph (1) in return for such appointments, training, promotions, separations, and retirements as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(b) REPAYMENT FOR FAILURE TO SATISFY REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require an officer who fails to meet the service requirements prescribed under subsection

(a)(1) to reimburse the Secretary in an amount that bears the same ratio to the total costs of the training provided to that officer by the Secretary as the unserved portion of active duty bears to the total period of active duty the officer agreed to serve.

“(2) OBLIGATION AS DEBT TO UNITED STATES.—An obligation to reimburse the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall be considered for all purposes as a debt owed to the United States.

“(3) DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY.—A discharge in bankruptcy under title 11 that is entered less than 5 years after the termination of a written agreement entered into under subsection (a)(2) does not discharge the individual signing the agreement from a debt arising under such agreement.

“(C) WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary may waive the service obligation of an officer who—

“(1) becomes unqualified to serve on active duty in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration because of a circumstance not within the control of that officer; or

“(2) is—

“(A) not physically qualified for appointment; and

“(B) determined to be unqualified for service in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration because of a physical or medical condition that was not the result of the officer's own misconduct or grossly negligent conduct.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes” (Public Law 107-372) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 215 the following:

“Sec. 216. Obligated service requirement.”

SEC. 725. TRAINING AND PHYSICAL FITNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A (33 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), as amended by section 724(a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 217. TRAINING AND PHYSICAL FITNESS.

“(a) TRAINING.—The Secretary may take such measures as may be necessary to ensure that officers are prepared to carry out their duties in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration and proficient in the skills necessary to carry out such duties. Such measures may include the following:

“(1) Carrying out training programs and correspondence courses, including establishing and operating a basic officer training program to provide initial indoctrination and maritime vocational training for officer candidates as well as refresher training, mid-career training, aviation training, and such other training as the Secretary considers necessary for officer development and proficiency.

“(2) Providing officers and officer candidates with books and school supplies.

“(3) Acquiring such equipment as may be necessary for training and instructional purposes.

“(b) PHYSICAL FITNESS.—The Secretary shall ensure that officers maintain a high physical state of readiness by establishing standards of physical fitness for officers that are substantially equivalent to those prescribed for officers in the Coast Guard.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes” (Public Law 107-372), as amended by section 724(b), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 216 the following:

“Sec. 217. Training and physical fitness.”

SEC. 726. RECRUITING MATERIALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A (33 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), as amended by sections 724 and 725,

is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 218. USE OF RECRUITING MATERIALS FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS.

“The Secretary may use for public relations purposes of the Department of Commerce any advertising materials developed for use for recruitment and retention of personnel for the commissioned officer corps of the Administration. Any such use shall be under such conditions and subject to such restrictions as the Secretary shall prescribe.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes” (Public Law 107-372), as amended by section 725(b), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 217 the following:

“Sec. 218. Use of recruiting materials for public relations.”

SEC. 727. CHARTER VESSEL SAFETY POLICY.

(a) POLICY REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall, acting through the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, develop and implement a charter vessel safety policy applicable to the acquisition by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of charter vessel services.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The policy required by subsection (a) shall address vessel safety, operational safety, and basic personnel safety requirements applicable to the vessel size, type, and intended use. At a minimum, the policy shall include the following:

(1) Basic vessel safety requirements that address stability, egress, fire protection and lifesaving equipment, hazardous materials, and pollution control.

(2) Personnel safety requirements that address crew qualifications, medical training and services, safety briefings and drills, and crew habitability.

(c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the basic vessel safety requirements and personnel safety requirements included in the policy required by subsection (a)—

(1) do not exceed the vessel safety requirements and personnel safety requirements promulgated by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating; and

(2) to the degree practicable, are consistent with the requirements described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 728. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Section 101(21)(C) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “in the commissioned officer corps” before “of the National”.

PART II—PARITY AND RECRUITMENT

SEC. 731. EDUCATION LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E (33 U.S.C. 3071 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 267. EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.

“(a) AUTHORITY TO REPAY EDUCATION LOANS.—For the purpose of maintaining adequate numbers of officers of the commissioned officer corps of the Administration on active duty who have skills required by the commissioned officer corps, the Secretary may repay, in the case of a person described in subsection (b), a loan that—

“(1) was used by the person to finance education; and

“(2) was obtained from a governmental entity, private financial institution, educational institution, or other authorized entity.

“(b) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—To be eligible to obtain a loan repayment under this section, a person must—

“(1) satisfy 1 of the requirements specified in subsection (c);

“(2) be fully qualified for, or hold, an appointment as a commissioned officer in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration; and

“(3) sign a written agreement to serve on active duty, or, if on active duty, to remain on active duty for a period in addition to any other incurred active duty obligation.

“(c) ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—One of the following academic requirements must be satisfied for purposes of determining the eligibility of an individual for a loan repayment under this section:

“(1) The person is fully qualified in a profession that the Secretary has determined to be necessary to meet identified skill shortages in the commissioned officer corps.

“(2) The person is enrolled as a full-time student in the final year of a course of study at an accredited educational institution (as determined by the Secretary of Education) leading to a degree in a profession that will meet identified skill shortages in the commissioned officer corps.

“(d) LOAN REPAYMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the limits established under paragraph (2), a loan repayment under this section may consist of the payment of the principal, interest, and related expenses of a loan obtained by a person described in subsection (b).

“(2) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—For each year of obligated service that a person agrees to serve in an agreement described in subsection (b)(3), the Secretary may pay not more than the amount specified in section 2173(e)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

“(e) ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE OBLIGATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A person entering into an agreement described in subsection (b)(3) incurs an active duty service obligation.

“(2) LENGTH OF OBLIGATION DETERMINED UNDER REGULATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the length of the obligation under paragraph (1) shall be determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

“(B) MINIMUM OBLIGATION.—The regulations prescribed under subparagraph (A) may not provide for a period of obligation of less than 1 year for each maximum annual amount, or portion thereof, paid on behalf of the person for qualified loans.

“(3) PERSONS ON ACTIVE DUTY BEFORE ENTERING INTO AGREEMENT.—The active duty service obligation of persons on active duty before entering into the agreement shall be served after the conclusion of any other obligation incurred under the agreement.

“(f) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO COMPLETE OBLIGATION.—

“(1) ALTERNATIVE OBLIGATIONS.—An officer who is relieved of the officer's active duty obligation under this section before the completion of that obligation may be given any alternative obligation, at the discretion of the Secretary.

“(2) REPAYMENT.—An officer who does not complete the period of active duty specified in the agreement entered into under subsection (b)(3), or the alternative obligation imposed under paragraph (1), shall be subject to the repayment provisions under section 216.

“(g) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section, including—

“(1) standards for qualified loans and authorized payees; and

“(2) other terms and conditions for the making of loan repayments.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the Hydrographic Services

Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes" (Public Law 107-372) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 266 the following:

"Sec. 267. Education loan repayment program."

SEC. 732. INTEREST PAYMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E (33 U.S.C. 3071 et seq.), as amended by section 731(a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 268. INTEREST PAYMENT PROGRAM.

"(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may pay the interest and any special allowances that accrue on 1 or more student loans of an eligible officer, in accordance with this section.

"(b) ELIGIBLE OFFICERS.—An officer is eligible for the benefit described in subsection (a) while the officer—

"(1) is serving on active duty;

"(2) has not completed more than 3 years of service on active duty;

"(3) is the debtor on 1 or more unpaid loans described in subsection (c); and

"(4) is not in default on any such loan.

"(c) STUDENT LOANS.—The authority to make payments under subsection (a) may be exercised with respect to the following loans:

"(1) A loan made, insured, or guaranteed under part B of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq.).

"(2) A loan made under part D of such title (20 U.S.C. 1087a et seq.).

"(3) A loan made under part E of such title (20 U.S.C. 1087aa et seq.).

"(d) MAXIMUM BENEFIT.—Interest and any special allowance may be paid on behalf of an officer under this section for any of the 36 consecutive months during which the officer is eligible under subsection (b).

"(e) FUNDS FOR PAYMENTS.—The Secretary may use amounts appropriated for the pay and allowances of personnel of the commissioned officer corps of the Administration for payments under this section.

"(f) COORDINATION WITH SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Education regarding the administration of this section.

"(2) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall transfer to the Secretary of Education the funds necessary—

"(A) to pay interest and special allowances on student loans under this section (in accordance with sections 428(o), 455(l), and 464(j) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078(o), 1087e(l), and 1087dd(j)); and

"(B) to reimburse the Secretary of Education for any reasonable administrative costs incurred by the Secretary in coordinating the program under this section with the administration of the student loan programs under parts B, D, and E of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq., 1087a et seq., 1087aa et seq.).

"(g) SPECIAL ALLOWANCE DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'special allowance' means a special allowance that is payable under section 438 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087-1)."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 428(o) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078(o)) is amended—

(A) by striking the subsection heading and inserting "ARMED FORCES AND NOAA COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS STUDENT LOAN INTEREST PAYMENT PROGRAMS"; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting "or section 264 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002" after "Code,"; and

(ii) by inserting "or an officer in the commissioned officer corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, respectively," after "Armed Forces".

(2) Sections 455(l) and 464(j) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(l) and 1087dd(j)) are each amended—

(A) by striking the subsection heading and inserting "ARMED FORCES AND NOAA COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS STUDENT LOAN INTEREST PAYMENT PROGRAMS"; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting "or section 264 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002" after "Code,"; and

(ii) by inserting "or an officer in the commissioned officer corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, respectively" after "Armed Forces".

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 1 of the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes" (Public Law 107-372), as amended by section 731(b), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 267 the following:

"Sec. 268. Interest payment program."

SEC. 733. STUDENT PRE-COMMISSIONING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E (33 U.S.C. 3071 et seq.), as amended by section 732(a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 269. STUDENT PRE-COMMISSIONING EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

"(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—For the purpose of maintaining adequate numbers of officers of the commissioned officer corps of the Administration on active duty, the Secretary may provide financial assistance to a person described in subsection (b) for expenses of the person while the person is pursuing on a full-time basis at an accredited educational institution (as determined by the Secretary of Education) a program of education approved by the Secretary that leads to—

"(1) a baccalaureate degree in not more than 5 academic years; or

"(2) a postbaccalaureate degree.

"(b) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A person is eligible to obtain financial assistance under subsection (a) if the person—

"(A) is enrolled on a full-time basis in a program of education referred to in subsection (a) at any educational institution described in such subsection;

"(B) meets all of the requirements for acceptance into the commissioned officer corps of the Administration except for the completion of a baccalaureate degree; and

"(C) enters into a written agreement with the Secretary described in paragraph (2).

"(2) AGREEMENT.—A written agreement referred to in paragraph (1)(C) is an agreement between the person and the Secretary in which the person agrees—

"(A) to accept an appointment as an officer, if tendered; and

"(B) upon completion of the person's educational program, agrees to serve on active duty, immediately after appointment, for—

"(i) up to 3 years if the person received less than 3 years of assistance; and

"(ii) up to 5 years if the person received at least 3 years of assistance.

"(c) QUALIFYING EXPENSES.—Expenses for which financial assistance may be provided under subsection (a) are the following:

"(1) Tuition and fees charged by the educational institution involved.

"(2) The cost of books.

"(3) In the case of a program of education leading to a baccalaureate degree, laboratory expenses.

"(4) Such other expenses as the Secretary considers appropriate.

"(d) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall prescribe the amount of finan-

cial assistance provided to a person under subsection (a), which may not exceed the amount specified in section 2173(e)(2) of title 10, United States Code, for each year of obligated service that a person agrees to serve in an agreement described in subsection (b)(2).

"(e) DURATION OF ASSISTANCE.—Financial assistance may be provided to a person under subsection (a) for not more than 5 consecutive academic years.

"(f) SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A person who receives financial assistance under subsection (a) shall be entitled to a monthly subsistence allowance at a rate prescribed under paragraph (2) for the duration of the period for which the person receives such financial assistance.

"(2) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall prescribe monthly rates for subsistence allowance provided under paragraph (1), which shall be equal to the amount specified in section 2144(a) of title 10, United States Code.

"(g) INITIAL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—

"(1) TRAINING.—The Secretary may prescribe a sum which shall be credited to each person who receives financial assistance under subsection (a) to cover the cost of the person's initial clothing and equipment issue.

"(2) APPOINTMENT.—Upon completion of the program of education for which a person receives financial assistance under subsection (a) and acceptance of appointment in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration, the person may be issued a subsequent clothing allowance equivalent to that normally provided to a newly appointed officer.

"(h) TERMINATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall terminate the assistance provided to a person under this section if—

"(A) the Secretary accepts a request by the person to be released from an agreement described in subsection (b)(2);

"(B) the misconduct of the person results in a failure to complete the period of active duty required under the agreement; or

"(C) the person fails to fulfill any term or condition of the agreement.

"(2) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary may require a person who receives assistance described in subsection (c), (f), or (g) under an agreement entered into under subsection (b)(1)(C) to reimburse the Secretary in an amount that bears the same ratio to the total costs of the assistance provided to that person as the unserved portion of active duty bears to the total period of active duty the officer agreed to serve under the agreement.

"(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the service obligation of a person through an agreement entered into under subsection (b)(1)(C) if the person—

"(A) becomes unqualified to serve on active duty in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration because of a circumstance not within the control of that person; or

"(B) is—

"(i) not physically qualified for appointment; and

"(ii) determined to be unqualified for service in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration because of a physical or medical condition that was not the result of the person's own misconduct or grossly negligent conduct.

"(4) OBLIGATION AS DEBT TO UNITED STATES.—An obligation to reimburse the Secretary imposed under paragraph (2) is, for all purposes, a debt owed to the United States.

"(5) DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY.—A discharge in bankruptcy under title 11, United States Code, that is entered less than 5 years

after the termination of a written agreement entered into under subsection (b)(1)(C) does not discharge the person signing the agreement from a debt arising under such agreement or under paragraph (2).

“(i) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may promulgate such regulations and orders as the Secretary considers appropriate to carry out this section.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes” (Public Law 107–372), as amended by section 732(c), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 268 the following:

“Sec. 269. Student pre-commissioning education assistance program.”.

SEC. 734. LIMITATION ON EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2013, the Secretary of Commerce shall ensure that the total amount expended by the Secretary under section 267 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (as added by section 731(a)), section 268 of such Act (as added by section 732(a)), and section 269 of such Act (as added by section 733(a)) does not exceed the amount by which—

(1) the total amount the Secretary would pay in that fiscal year to officer candidates under section 203(f)(1) of title 37, United States Code (as added by section 756(d)), if such section entitled officer candidates to pay at monthly rates equal to the basic pay of a commissioned officer in the pay grade O-1 with less than 2 years of service; exceeds

(2) the total amount the Secretary actually pays in that fiscal year to officer candidates under section 203(f)(1) of such title (as so added).

(b) OFFICER CANDIDATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “officer candidate” has the meaning given the term in section 212 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 3002), as added by section 756(c).

SEC. 735. APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, AND EXTENSION OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES APPLICABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS.

(a) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF TITLE 10.—Section 261(a) (33 U.S.C. 3071(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through (16) as paragraphs (20) through (23), respectively;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (12) as paragraphs (12) through (17), respectively;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (6) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) Section 771, relating to unauthorized wearing of uniforms.

“(5) Section 774, relating to wearing religious apparel while in uniform.

“(6) Section 982, relating to service on State and local juries.

“(7) Section 1031, relating to administration of oaths.”;

(5) by inserting after paragraph (10), as redesignated, the following:

“(11) Chapter 58, relating to the Benefits and Services for members being separated or recently separated.”; and

(6) by inserting after paragraph (17), as redesignated, the following:

“(18) Subchapter I of chapter 88, relating to Military Family Programs.

“(19) Section 2005, relating to advanced education assistance, active duty agreements, and reimbursement requirements.”.

(b) EXTENSION OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES.—

(1) NOTARIAL SERVICES.—Section 1044a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “armed forces” and inserting “uniformed services”; and

(B) in subsection (b)(4), by striking “armed forces” both places it appears and inserting “uniformed services”.

(2) ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR PROGRAMS SERVING MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.—Section 1588 of such title is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “armed forces” and inserting “uniformed services”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) SECRETARY CONCERNED FOR ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICES FOR PROGRAMS SERVING MEMBERS OF NOAA AND THEIR FAMILIES.—For purposes of the acceptance of services described in subsection (a)(3), the term ‘Secretary concerned’ in subsection (a) shall include the Secretary of Commerce with respect to members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.”.

(3) CAPSTONE COURSE FOR NEWLY SELECTED FLAG OFFICERS.—Section 2153 of such title is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by inserting “or the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration” after “in the case of the Navy”; and

(ii) by striking “other armed forces” and inserting “other uniformed services”; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “or the Secretary of Commerce, as applicable,” after “the Secretary of Defense”.

SEC. 736. APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF TITLE 37, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E (33 U.S.C. 3071 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 261 the following:

“SEC. 261A. APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF TITLE 37, UNITED STATES CODE.

“(a) PROVISIONS MADE APPLICABLE TO COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS.—The provisions of law applicable to the Armed Forces under the following provisions of title 37, United States Code, shall apply to the commissioned officer corps of the Administration:

“(1) Section 324, relating to accession bonuses for new officers in critical skills.

“(2) Section 403(f)(3), relating to prescribing regulations defining the terms ‘field duty’ and ‘sea duty’.

“(3) Section 403(l), relating to temporary continuation of housing allowance for dependents of members dying on active duty.

“(4) Section 414(a)(2), relating to personal money allowance while serving as Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps.

“(5) Section 488, relating to allowances for recruiting expenses.

“(6) Section 495, relating to allowances for funeral honors duty.

“(b) REFERENCES.—The authority vested by title 37, United States Code, in the ‘military departments’, ‘the Secretary concerned’, or ‘the Secretary of Defense’ with respect to the provisions of law referred to in subsection (a) shall be exercised, with respect to the commissioned officer corps of the Administration, by the Secretary of Commerce or the Secretary’s designee.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes” (Public Law 107–372) is amended by in-

serting after the item relating to section 261 the following:

“Sec. 261A. Applicability of certain provisions of title 37, United States Code.”.

SEC. 737. LEGION OF MERIT AWARD.

Section 1121 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “armed forces” and inserting “uniformed services”.

SEC. 738. PROHIBITION ON RETALIATORY PERSONNEL ACTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 261 (33 U.S.C. 3071), as amended by section 735, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through (23) as paragraphs (9) through (24), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

“(8) Section 1034, relating to protected communications and prohibition of retaliatory personnel actions.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following: “For purposes of paragraph (8) of subsection (a), the term ‘Inspector General’ in section 1034 of such title 10 shall mean the Inspector General of the Department of Commerce.”.

(c) REGULATIONS.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) REGULATIONS REGARDING PROTECTED COMMUNICATIONS AND PROHIBITION OF RETALIATORY PERSONNEL ACTIONS.—The Secretary may promulgate regulations to carry out the application of section 1034 of title 10, United States Code, to the commissioned officer corps of the Administration, including by promulgating such administrative procedures for investigation and appeal within the commissioned officer corps as the Secretary considers appropriate.”.

SEC. 739. PENALTIES FOR WEARING UNIFORM WITHOUT AUTHORITY.

Section 702 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “Service or any” and inserting “Service, the commissioned officer corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or any”.

SEC. 740. APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF COMPETITIVE SERVICE LAW.

Section 3304(f) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and members of the commissioned officer corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (or its predecessor organization the Coast and Geodetic Survey) separated from such uniformed service” after “separated from the armed forces”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “or veteran” and inserting “, veteran, or member”; and

(3) in paragraph (4), by inserting “and members of the commissioned officer corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (or its predecessor organization the Coast and Geodetic Survey) separated from such uniformed service” after “separated from the armed forces”.

SEC. 741. EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS.

Section 4303(16) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “the commissioned officer corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,” after “Public Health Service.”.

SEC. 742. TREATMENT OF COMMISSION IN COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS FOR PURPOSES OF CERTAIN HIRING DECISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E (33 U.S.C. 3071 et seq.), as amended by this subtitle, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 269A. TREATMENT OF COMMISSION IN COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS AS EMPLOYMENT IN ADMINISTRATION FOR PURPOSES OF CERTAIN HIRING DECISIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which the Secretary accepts an application for a position of employment with the Administration and limits consideration of applications for such position to applications submitted by individuals serving in a career or career-conditional position in the competitive service within the Administration, the Secretary shall deem an officer who has served as an officer in the commissioned officer corps for at least 3 years to be serving in a career or career-conditional position in the competitive service within the Administration for purposes of such limitation.

“(b) CAREER APPOINTMENTS.—If the Secretary selects an application submitted by an officer described in subsection (a) for a position described in such subsection, the Secretary shall give such officer a career or career-conditional appointment in the competitive service, as appropriate.

“(c) COMPETITIVE SERVICE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘competitive service’ has the meaning given the term in section 2102 of title 5, United States Code.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes” (Public Law 107-372) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 269, as added by this subtitle, the following:

“Sec. 269A. Treatment of commission in commissioned officer corps as employment in Administration for purposes of certain hiring decisions.”.

SEC. 743. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of a Federal agency may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of such title, a qualified candidate described subsection (b) directly to a position in the agency for which the candidate meets qualification standards of the Office of Personnel Management.

(b) CANDIDATES DESCRIBED.—A candidate described in this subsection is a current or former member of the commissioned officer corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who—

(1) fulfilled his or her obligated service requirement under section 216 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, as added by section 724;

(2) if no longer a member of the commissioned officer corps of the Administration, was not discharged or released therefrom as part of a disciplinary action; and

(3) has been separated or released from service in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration for a period of not more than 5 years.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to appointments made in fiscal year 2016 and in each fiscal year thereafter.

PART III—APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTION OF OFFICERS

SEC. 751. APPOINTMENTS.

(a) ORIGINAL APPOINTMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 221 (33 U.S.C. 3021) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 221. ORIGINAL APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS.

“(a) ORIGINAL APPOINTMENTS.—

“(1) GRADES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an original appointment of an officer may be made in such grades as may be appropriate for—

“(i) the qualification, experience, and length of service of the appointee; and

“(ii) the commissioned officer corps of the Administration.

“(B) APPOINTMENT OF OFFICER CANDIDATES.—

“(i) LIMITATION ON GRADE.—An original appointment of an officer candidate, upon graduation from the basic officer training program of the commissioned officer corps of the Administration, may not be made in any other grade than ensign.

“(ii) RANK.—Officer candidates receiving appointments as ensigns upon graduation from basic officer training program shall take rank according to their proficiency as shown by the order of their merit at date of graduation.

“(2) SOURCE OF APPOINTMENTS.—An original appointment may be made from among the following:

“(A) Graduates of the basic officer training program of the commissioned officer corps of the Administration.

“(B) Graduates of the military service academies of the United States who otherwise meet the academic standards for enrollment in the training program described in subparagraph (A).

“(C) Graduates of the maritime academies of the States who—

“(i) otherwise meet the academic standards for enrollment in the training program described in subparagraph (A);

“(ii) completed at least 3 years of regimented training while at a maritime academy of a State; and

“(iii) obtained an unlimited tonnage or unlimited horsepower Merchant Mariner Credential from the United States Coast Guard.

“(D) Licensed officers of the United States merchant marine who have served 2 or more years aboard a vessel of the United States in the capacity of a licensed officer, who otherwise meet the academic standards for enrollment in the training program described in subparagraph (A).

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) MARITIME ACADEMIES OF THE STATES.—The term ‘maritime academies of the States’ means the following:

“(i) California Maritime Academy, Vallejo, California.

“(ii) Great Lakes Maritime Academy, Traverse City, Michigan.

“(iii) Maine Maritime Academy, Castine, Maine.

“(iv) Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts.

“(v) State University of New York Maritime College, Fort Schuyler, New York.

“(vi) Texas A&M Maritime Academy, Galveston, Texas.

“(B) MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES OF THE UNITED STATES.—The term ‘military service academies of the United States’ means the following:

“(i) The United States Military Academy, West Point, New York.

“(ii) The United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland.

“(iii) The United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

“(iv) The United States Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut.

“(v) The United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York.

“(b) REAPPOINTMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an individual who previously served in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration may be appointed by the Secretary to the grade the individual held prior to separation.

“(2) REAPPOINTMENTS TO HIGHER GRADES.—An appointment under paragraph (1) to a position of importance and responsibility des-

ignated under section 228 may only be made by the President.

“(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—An appointment under subsection (a) or (b) may not be given to an individual until the individual’s mental, moral, physical, and professional fitness to perform the duties of an officer has been established under such regulations as the Secretary shall prescribe.

“(d) PRECEDENCE OF APPOINTEES.—Appointees under this section shall take precedence in the grade to which appointed in accordance with the dates of their commissions as commissioned officers in such grade. Appointees whose dates of commission are the same shall take precedence with each other as the Secretary shall determine.

“(e) INTER-SERVICE TRANSFERS.—For inter-service transfers (as described in the Department of Defense Directive 1300.4 (dated December 27, 2006)) the Secretary shall—

“(1) coordinate with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating to promote and streamline inter-service transfers;

“(2) give preference to such inter-service transfers for recruitment purposes as determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

“(3) reappoint such inter-service transfers to the equivalent grade in the commissioned officer corps.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes” (Public Law 107-372) is amended by striking the item relating to section 221 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 221. Original appointments and reappointments.”.

SEC. 752. PERSONNEL BOARDS.

Section 222 (33 U.S.C. 3022) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 222. PERSONNEL BOARDS.

“(a) CONVENING.—Not less frequently than once each year and at such other times as the Secretary determines necessary, the Secretary shall convene a personnel board.

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A board convened under subsection (a) shall consist of 5 or more officers who are serving in or above the permanent grade of the officers under consideration by the board.

“(2) RETIRED OFFICERS.—Officers on the retired list may be recalled to serve on such personnel boards as the Secretary considers necessary.

“(3) NO MEMBERSHIP ON 2 SUCCESSIVE BOARDS.—No officer may be a member of 2 successive personnel boards convened to consider officers of the same grade for promotion or separation.

“(c) DUTIES.—Each personnel board shall—

“(1) recommend to the Secretary such changes as may be necessary to correct any erroneous position on the lineal list that was caused by administrative error; and

“(2) make selections and recommendations to the Secretary and the President for the appointment, promotion, involuntary separation, continuation, and involuntary retirement of officers in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration as prescribed in this title.

“(d) ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS NOT ACCEPTABLE.—If any recommendation by a board convened under subsection (a) is not accepted by the Secretary or the President, the board shall make such further recommendations as the Secretary or the President considers appropriate.”.

SEC. 753. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.

Section 226 (33 U.S.C. 3026) is amended—

(1) by striking “Appointments” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Appointments”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) DELEGATION OF APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY.—If the President delegates authority to the Secretary to make appointments under this section, the President shall, during a period in which the position of the Secretary is vacant, delegate such authority to the Deputy Secretary of Commerce or the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere during such period.”.

SEC. 754. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS.

Section 228(c) (33 U.S.C. 3028(c)) is amended—

(1) in the fourth sentence, by striking “Director” and inserting “Assistant Administrator”; and

(2) in the heading, by inserting “ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE” before “OFFICE”.

SEC. 755. TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 229 (33 U.S.C. 3029) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 229. TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS.

“(a) APPOINTMENTS BY PRESIDENT.—Temporary appointments in the grade of ensign, lieutenant junior grade, or lieutenant may be made by the President.

“(b) TERMINATION.—A temporary appointment to a position under subsection (a) shall terminate upon approval of a permanent appointment for such position made by the President.

“(c) ORDER OF PRECEDENCE.—Appointees under subsection (a) shall take precedence in the grade to which appointed in accordance with the dates of their appointments as officers in such grade. The order of precedence of appointees who are appointed on the same date shall be determined by the Secretary.

“(d) ANY ONE GRADE.—When determined by the Secretary to be in the best interest of the commissioned officer corps, officers in any permanent grade may be temporarily promoted one grade by the President. Any such temporary promotion terminates upon the transfer of the officer to a new assignment.

“(e) DELEGATION OF APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY.—If the President delegates authority to the Secretary to make appointments under this section, the President shall, during a period in which the position of the Secretary is vacant, delegate such authority to the Deputy Secretary of Commerce or the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere during such period.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes” (Public Law 107-372) is amended by striking the item relating to section 229 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 229. Temporary appointments.”.

SEC. 756. OFFICER CANDIDATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B (33 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 234. OFFICER CANDIDATES.

“(a) DETERMINATION OF NUMBER.—The Secretary shall determine the number of appointments of officer candidates.

“(b) APPOINTMENT.—Appointment of officer candidates shall be made under regulations which the Secretary shall prescribe, including regulations with respect to determining age limits, methods of selection of officer candidates, term of service as an officer candidate before graduation from the program, and all other matters affecting such appointment.

“(c) DISMISSAL.—The Secretary may dismiss from the basic officer training program of the Administration any officer candidate who, during the officer candidate’s term as

an officer candidate, the Secretary considers unsatisfactory in either academics or conduct, or not adapted for a career in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration. Officer candidates shall be subject to rules governing discipline prescribed by the Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps.

“(d) AGREEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each officer candidate shall sign an agreement with the Secretary in accordance with section 216(a)(2) regarding the officer candidate’s term of service in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—An agreement signed by an officer candidate under paragraph (1) shall provide that the officer candidate agrees to the following:

“(A) That the officer candidate will complete the course of instruction at the basic officer training program of the Administration.

“(B) That upon graduation from the such program, the officer candidate—

“(i) will accept an appointment, if tendered, as an officer; and

“(ii) will serve on active duty for at least 4 years immediately after such appointment.

“(e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section. Such regulations shall include—

“(1) standards for determining what constitutes a breach of an agreement signed under such subsection (d)(1); and

“(2) procedures for determining whether such a breach has occurred.

“(f) REPAYMENT.—An officer candidate or former officer candidate who does not fulfill the terms of the obligation to serve as specified under section (d) shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 216(b).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes” (Public Law 107-372) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 233 the following:

“Sec. 234. Officer candidates.”.

(c) OFFICER CANDIDATE DEFINED.—Section 212(b) (33 U.S.C. 3002(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (6) as paragraphs (5) through (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) OFFICER CANDIDATE.—The term ‘officer candidate’ means an individual who is enrolled in the basic officer training program of the Administration and is under consideration for appointment as an officer under section 221(a)(2)(A).”.

(d) PAY FOR OFFICER CANDIDATES.—Section 203 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f)(1) An officer candidate enrolled in the basic officer training program of the commissioned officer corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is entitled, while participating in such program, to monthly officer candidate pay at monthly rate equal to the basic pay of an enlisted member in the pay grade E-5 with less than 2 years service.

“(2) An individual who graduates from such program shall receive credit for the time spent participating in such program as if such time were time served while on active duty as a commissioned officer. If the individual does not graduate from such program, such time shall not be considered creditable for active duty or pay.”.

SEC. 757. PROCUREMENT OF PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B (33 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.), as amended by section 756(a), is fur-

ther amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 235. PROCUREMENT OF PERSONNEL.

“The Secretary may make such expenditures as the Secretary considers necessary in order to obtain recruits for the commissioned officer corps of the Administration, including advertising.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes” (Public Law 107-372), as amended by section 756(b), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 234 the following:

“235. Procurement of personnel.”.

PART IV—SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT OF OFFICERS

SEC. 761. INVOLUNTARY RETIREMENT OR SEPARATION.

Section 241 (33 U.S.C. 3041) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) DEFERMENT OF RETIREMENT OR SEPARATION FOR MEDICAL REASONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that the evaluation of the medical condition of an officer requires hospitalization or medical observation that cannot be completed with confidence in a manner consistent with the officer’s well being before the date on which the officer would otherwise be required to retire or be separated under this section, the Secretary may defer the retirement or separation of the officer.

“(2) CONSENT REQUIRED.—A deferment may only be made with the written consent of the officer involved. If the officer does not provide written consent to the deferment, the officer shall be retired or separated as scheduled.

“(3) LIMITATION.—A deferral of retirement or separation under this subsection may not extend for more than 30 days after completion of the evaluation requiring hospitalization or medical observation.”.

SEC. 762. SEPARATION PAY.

Section 242 (33 U.S.C. 3042) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) EXCEPTION.—An officer discharged for twice failing selection for promotion to the next higher grade is not entitled to separation pay under this section if the officer—

“(1) expresses a desire not to be selected for promotion; or

“(2) requests removal from the list of selectees.”.

Subtitle C—Hydrographic Services

SEC. 771. REAUTHORIZATION OF HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998.

(a) REAUTHORIZATIONS.—Section 306 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892d) is amended—

(1) in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking “There are” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are”;

(2) in subsection (a) (as designated by paragraph (1))—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “surveys—” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “surveys, \$70,814,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “vessels—” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “vessels, \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “Administration—” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “Administration, \$29,932,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”;

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “title—” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “title, \$26,800,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”; and

(E) in paragraph (5), by striking “title—” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “title, \$30,564,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”; and (3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) ARCTIC PROGRAMS.—Of the amount authorized by this section for each fiscal year—

“(1) \$10,000,000 is authorized for use—

“(A) to acquire hydrographic data;

“(B) to provide hydrographic services;

“(C) to conduct coastal change analyses necessary to ensure safe navigation;

“(D) to improve the management of coastal change in the Arctic; and

“(E) to reduce risks of harm to Alaska Native subsistence and coastal communities associated with increased international maritime traffic; and

“(2) \$2,000,000 is authorized for use to acquire hydrographic data and provide hydrographic services in the Arctic necessary to delineate the United States extended Continental Shelf.”.

(b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR SURVEYS.—Section 306 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892d) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR SURVEYS.—Of amounts authorized by this section for each fiscal year for contract hydrographic surveys, not more than 5 percent is authorized for administrative costs associated with contract management.”.

SA 4941. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 764, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall take effect 2 days after the date of enactment.

SA 4942. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 764, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall take effect 3 days after the date of enactment.

SA 4943. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 764, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall take effect 4 days after the date of enactment.

SA 4944. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 764, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike “2” and insert “3”.

SA 4945. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 764, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”.

SA 4946. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 764, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike “4” and insert “5”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 29, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. SASSE. 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 on June 29, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “ESSA Implementation: Update from the U.S. Secretary of Education on Proposed Regulations.”

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 29, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Preparing for and Protecting the Nation from Zika.”

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 29, 2016, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 29, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Protecting Older Americans From Financial Exploitation.”

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 29, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SR-428A of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “America Without Entrepreneurs: The Consequences of Dwindling Startup Activity.”

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 29, 2016, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR-418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SUPERFUND, WASTE MANAGEMENT, AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight of the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 29, 2016, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Oversight of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Enforcement and Compliance Programs.”

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kelsey Boe, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges during the duration of today’s session in the Senate.

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

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 114-12

On Tuesday, June 28, 2016, the injunction of secrecy was removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on June 28, 2016, by the President of the United States: Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, Treaty Document No. 114-12.

The message of the President ordered to be printed is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro. This Protocol was signed in Brussels on May 19, 2016, on behalf of the United States and the other Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty. Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is an overview of the Protocol by the Department of State. Full ratification of the Protocol by the United States and our allies will allow Montenegro to become a Party to the North