

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3434. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clarifications to the Export Administration Regulations for the Use of License Exceptions" (RIN0694-AG80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3435. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3436. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3437. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Rhode Island; Enhanced Motor Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program" (FRL No. 9970-66-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3438. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard; District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia; Washington, DC-MD-VA Area" (FRL No. 9970-70-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3439. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Designations for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)" (FRL No. 9970-77-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3440. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State of Iowa; Approval and Promulgation of the State Implementation Plan, the Operating Permits Program, and the 111(d) Plan; Withdrawal" (FRL No. 9970-85-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3441. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Community Right-to-Know; Adopting 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Codes for Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Reporting; Withdrawal" (FRL No. 9968-26-OCSPP) (RIN2070-AK32) received

in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3442. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; NH; Approval of Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements and Single Source Order" (FRL No. 9970-64-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3443. A communication from the Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 2118. A bill for the relief of Melecio Andazola-Morales; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2119. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit smoking in any facility of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 236

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 236, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 298

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 317

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 317, a bill to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes.

S. 794

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 794, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act in order to improve the process whereby Medicare administrative contractors issue local coverage determinations under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 821

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 821, a bill to promote access for United States officials, journalists, and other citizens to Tibetan areas of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

S. 835

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 835, a bill to require the Supreme Court of the United States to promulgate a code of ethics.

S. 944

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 944, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform and extend the incentives for biodiesel.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) were added as cosponsors of S. 1002, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1109

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1109, a bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1338

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1338, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dust Off crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and lifesaving actions in Vietnam.

S. 1361

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1361, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 1520

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1520, a bill to expand recreational fishing opportunities through enhanced marine fishery conservation and management, and for other purposes.

S. 1539

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1539, a bill to protect victims of stalking from gun violence.

S. 1559

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to ensure a complete analysis of the potential impacts of rules on small entities.

S. 1679

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1679, a bill to amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 to increase enforcement of certain violations and strengthen certain transparency requirements.

S. 1803

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1803, a bill to improve medical research on marijuana.

S. 2005

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2005, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the publicly traded partnership ownership structure to energy power generation projects and transportation fuels, and for other purposes.

S. 2009

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2009, a bill to require a background check for every firearm sale.

S. RES. 279

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 279, a resolution reaffirming the commitment of the United States to promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Cambodia.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2119. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit smoking in any facility of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2119

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON SMOKING IN FACILITIES OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Section 1715 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 1715. Prohibition on smoking in facilities of the Veterans Health Administration

“(a) PROHIBITION.—(1)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), no person may smoke indoors in any facility of the Veterans Health Administration.

“(B) In the case of a facility of the Veterans Health Administration that is a community living center, no person may smoke indoors in such facility on or after December 31, 2018.

“(2) No person may smoke outdoors in any facility of the Veterans Health Administration on or after October 1, 2021.

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘community living center’ means a facility of the Department that provides nursing home care.

“(2) The term ‘facility of the Veterans Health Administration’ means any land or building (including any medical center, nursing home, domiciliary facility, outpatient clinic, or center that provides readjustment counseling) that is—

“(A) under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

“(B) under the control of the Veterans Health Administration; and

“(C) not under the control of the General Services Administration.

“(3) The term ‘smoke’ includes the smoking of cigarettes (including e-cigarettes or electronic cigarettes), cigars, pipes, and any other combustion of tobacco.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1715 and inserting the following new item:

“1715. Prohibition on smoking in facilities of the Veterans Health Administration.”

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 526 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-585; 38 U.S.C. 1715 note) is hereby repealed.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have a request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, November 13, 2017, at 3 p.m., in SH-216 to conduct hearing on the “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.”

FEMA ACCOUNTABILITY, MODERNIZATION AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 223, H.R. 1679.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1679) to ensure that the Federal Emergency Management Agency's current efforts to modernize its grant management system includes applicant accessibility and transparency, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 1679) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 14; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Bradbury nomination; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; finally, that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on the Bradbury nomination.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume executive session and the Bradbury nomination.

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

The Senator from Florida.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the nomination of Steven Bradbury, but first I want to speak on a much lighter subject, the reason that I wore this orange tie. The University of Miami football team has a perfect record. This is hearkening back to the glory days, and I will tell you why I do this.

My neighbor and one of my best friends, Cortez Kennedy, who was originally from Arkansas, was the defensive player of the year for the national championship team in 1989 at the University of Miami. Then, he spent 10