

the study conducted under paragraph (1), including any recommendations for improvements to State activities and the Secretary of Transportation's administration of the highway safety programs.

**SEC. 6. CESSATION OF CERTAIN ADVISORY COUNCILS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

(a) **NORTHEAST CORRIDOR SAFETY COMMITTEE.**—Section 24905(e) of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **SUNSET.**—The Committee established under this subsection ceases to exist on the date that the Secretary determines positive train control, as required by section 20157, is fully implemented along the Northeast Corridor.”.

(b) **NATIONAL RAIL COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.**—Section 24910(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **SUNSET.**—The advisory board established under this subsection ceases to exist effective January 1, 2019.”.

**SEC. 7. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO RAIL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.**

(a) **REDESIGNATION.**—Subtitle V of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 24401 through 24408 as sections 22901 through 22908, respectively;

(2) by redesignating chapter 244 as chapter 229;

(3) by moving chapter 229, as redesignated, to appear at the end of part B;

(4) in the table of chapters—

(A) by striking the item relating to chapter 244; and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to chapter 227 the following:

“Chapter 229. Rail Improvement Grants ..... 22901”;

and

(5) by amending the table of sections for chapter 229, as redesignated, to read as follows:

**“CHAPTER 229—RAIL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS**

**“Sec.**

“22901. Definitions.

“22902. Capital investment grants to support intercity passenger rail services.

“22903. Project management oversight.

“22904. Use of capital grants to finance first-dollar liability of grant project.

“22905. Grant conditions.

“22906. Authorization of appropriations.

“22907. Consolidated rail infrastructure and safety improvements.

“22908. Restoration and enhancement grants.”.

(b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**—Chapter 229 of title 49, United States Code, as redesignated, is amended—

(A) in section 22902, as redesignated—

(i) in subsection (c)(3)(A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “of” after “other modes”; and

(II) in clause (vi) by striking “environmentally” and inserting “environmental”; and

(ii) in subsection (k), by striking “state rail plan” and inserting “State rail plan”; and

(B) in section 22905(e)(1), as redesignated—

(i) by striking “government authority” and inserting “governmental authority”; and

(ii) by striking “section 5302(11) and (6), respectively, of this title” and inserting “section 5302”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Chapter 229 of title 49, United States Code, as redesignated, is amended—

(A) in section 22901(2)(D), as redesignated, by striking “24404” and inserting “22904”;

(B) in section 22904, as redesignated, by striking “24402” and inserting “22902”;

(C) in section 22905(e)(1), as redesignated, by striking “24102(4) of this title” and inserting “24102”;

(D) in section 22907, as redesignated—

(i) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “24401(2)” and inserting “22901(2)”; and

(ii) in subsection (k), by striking “of sections 24402, 24403, and 24404 and the definition contained in 24401(1)” and inserting “under sections 22902, 22903, and 22904, and the definition contained in section 22901(1)”; and

(E) in section 22908, as redesignated—

(i) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “24401(1)” and inserting “22901(1)”; and

(ii) in subsection (i)(3), by striking “24405” and inserting “22905”.

(3) **ADDITIONAL CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(A) **SUBTITLE V.**—Subtitle V of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in part C—

(I) in section 24102(7)(D)(ii), by striking “chapter 244” and inserting “chapter 229”;

(II) in section 24103, by inserting “or chapter 229” after “this part” each place it appears;

(III) in section 24711(c)(3), by striking “24405” and inserting “22905”; and

(IV) in section 24911(i), by striking “24405” and inserting “22905”; and

(ii) in part D, in section 26106(e)(3), by striking “24405 of this title” and inserting “22905”.

(B) **RAILROAD SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2008.**—The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (division B of Public Law 110-432) is amended—

(i) in section 301(c) (49 U.S.C. 24405 note), by striking “24405(a)” and inserting “22905(a)”; and

(ii) in section 502(a)(4)(I) (49 U.S.C. 26106 note), by striking “24405” and inserting “22905”.

(C) **FAST ACT.**—The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (Public Law 114-94; 129 Stat. 1312) is amended—

(i) in section 11102, by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **CONFORMING PROVISION FOR REDESIGNATION OF APPLICABLE SECTION.**—Any amounts authorized under this section for grants or project management oversight under section 24407 of such title shall be deemed to refer to grants or project management oversight under section 22907 of such title on or after the date of enactment of the Department of Transportation Reports Harmonization Act.”;

(ii) in section 11104, by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **CONFORMING PROVISION FOR REDESIGNATION OF APPLICABLE SECTION.**—Any amounts authorized under this section for grants or project management oversight under section 24408 of such title shall be deemed to refer to grants or project management oversight under section 22908 of such title on or after the date of enactment of the Department of Transportation Reports Harmonization Act.”;

(iii) in section 11308(a)(4)(I), by striking “24405” and inserting “22905”; and

(iv) in section 11401(b)(5), by striking “chapter 244” and inserting “chapter 229”.

The bill (S. 3367), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**DOUGLAS FOURNET DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC**

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3444 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3444) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lake Charles, Louisiana, as the “Douglas Fournet Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Cassidy substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 4160) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF DOUGLAS FOURNET DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC IN LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA.**

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lake Charles, Louisiana, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Douglas Fournet Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic” or the “Douglas Fournet VA Clinic”.

(b) **REFERENCE.**—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Douglas Fournet Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

The bill (S. 3444) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION OF POSSESSION OF BIOLOGICAL TOXINS AND AGENTS ACT OF 2018**

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 2 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2) to amend section 175b of title 18, United States Code, to correct a scrivener's error.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

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

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

The bill (S. 2) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Effective Prosecution of Possession of Biological Toxins and Agents Act of 2018”.

#### SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON THE POSSESSION OF BIOLOGICAL TOXINS AND AGENTS.

Section 175b of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “(a)(1) No restricted” and all that follows through the end of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(a) OFFENSE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for a restricted person to—

“(A) ship, transport, or possess in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce any biological agent or toxin described in paragraph (2); or

“(B) receive any biological agent or toxin described in paragraph (2) that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

“(2) AGENTS AND TOXINS COVERED.—A biological agent or toxin described in this paragraph is a biological agent or toxin that—

“(A) is listed as a non-overlap or overlap select biological agent or toxin under part 73 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, pursuant to section 351A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262a); and

“(B) is not excluded or exempted under part 73 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations.”; and

(B) by striking “(2) Whoever” and inserting “(3) PENALTY.—Whoever” and adjusting the margin accordingly; and

(2) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “DEFINITIONS.—” before “In this section:”.

#### FOREVER GI BILL HOUSING PAYMENT FULFILLMENT ACT OF 2018

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3777, introduced earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3777) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a tiger team dedicated to addressing the difficulties encountered by the Department of Veterans Affairs in carrying out section 3313 of title 38, United States Code, after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

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

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

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

The bill (S. 3777) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3777

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Forever GI Bill Housing Payment Fulfillment Act of 2018”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) On August 16, 2017, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48) (known by some as the “Forever GI Bill”) was enacted into law.

(2) Such Act makes certain improvements to the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance program for veterans, including improvements relating to how the Secretary of Veterans Affairs calculates the amount of payments for monthly housing stipends under that program.

(3) Section 107 of such Act (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3313 note) requires the Secretary to calculate the amount of payments for monthly housing stipends based on the location of the campus of the institution of higher learning where the individual attends classes, a change from the previous direction to make such calculation based on the location of the institution of higher learning.

(4) Section 501 of such Act (Public Law 115–48; 37 U.S.C. 403 note) repeals the inapplicability of a modification of the basic allowance for housing for members of the uniformed services to benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(5) The amendments made by section 107 and 501 of such Act became effective on August 1, 2018, and January 1, 2018, respectively.

(6) Representatives of the Department of Veterans Affairs have stated that the Department will not be able to determine proper payment amounts based on the amendment made by section 107 of such Act until December 1, 2019.

(7) Representatives of the Department have also stated that outdated information technology systems have stymied efforts to update necessary information that enable proper housing payments as required by the provisions of law amended by sections 107 and 501 of such Act.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) as soon as possible, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should end the making of improper payment amounts for monthly stipends under section 3313 of title 38, United States Code;

(2) by January 1, 2020, the Secretary should make whole the individuals entitled to payments of monthly stipends under section 3313 of title 38, United States Code, who have been underpaid as a result of the difficulties encountered by the Department of Veterans Affairs in carrying out such section after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48); and

(3) no individuals entitled to payments of monthly stipend under section 3313 of title 38, United States Code, who have been overpaid as a result of the difficulties encoun-

tered by the Department in carrying out such section after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of such Act should have overpayments recuperated by the Department.

#### SEC. 3. TIGER TEAM FOR HOUSING STIPENDS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one day after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a tiger team (in this section referred to as the “Tiger Team”) dedicated to addressing the difficulties encountered by the Department of Veterans Affairs in carrying out section 3313 of title 38, United States Code, after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3313 note and 37 U.S.C. 403 note).

(b) COMPOSITION.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress the names and titles of the employees of the Department who compose the Tiger Team established under subsection (a), including the name and title of the senior-level employee of the Department who serves as the lead accountable official of the Tiger Team.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Tiger Team shall submit to Congress the following:

(A) A plan describing the following:

(i) How the Secretary will obtain the information necessary to determine the correct payment amounts for monthly stipends under section 3313 of title 38, United States Code, made after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3313 note and 37 U.S.C. 403 note), from officials responsible for the certification of payments of monthly stipends made under section 3313 of such title.

(ii) How the Secretary will modify the relevant information technology systems of the Department to correct the payment amounts for monthly stipends under section 3313 of such title made after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of such Act (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3313 note and 37 U.S.C. 403 note) that were deficient.

(iii) How the Secretary will identify all of the individuals who received payments of monthly stipends under section 3313 of such title that were not in compliance with such section, after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of such Act (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3313 note and 37 U.S.C. 403 note).

(iv) How the Secretary will notify the individuals described in clause (iii).

(v) The procedures the Secretary will use to correct the payments of monthly stipends under section 3313 of such title that were deficient as a result of the difficulties encountered by the Department of Veterans Affairs in carrying out such section after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of such Act (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3313 note and 37 U.S.C. 403 note).

(B) A complete timeline for the implementation of the plan described in subparagraph (A).

(C) Any additional funding and personnel requirements necessary to support the implementation of the plan described in subparagraph (A), including any such requirements as may be necessary for staffing increases or relevant improvements to the information technology infrastructure of the Department.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall implement the plan submitted under paragraph (1)(A).

(B) PERIODIC UPDATES.—Not less frequently than once every 90 days after submission of