

“(VII) satisfies such other criteria as the Secretary may establish.

“(viii) QUALIFIED VENTURE CAPITALIST.—The term ‘qualified venture capitalist’ means an entity that—

“(I)(aa) is a venture capital operating company (as defined in section 2510.3-101(d) of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations or any successor to such regulation); or

“(bb) has management rights, as defined in, and to the extent required by, such section 2510.3-101(d) or successor regulation, in its portfolio companies;

“(II) has capital commitments of not less than \$10,000,000; and

“(III) has an investment adviser that—

“(aa) is registered under section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-3);

“(bb) has its primary office location in the United States;

“(cc) is directly or indirectly owned by individuals, the majority of whom are citizens of the United States or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States;

“(dd) has been advising such entity or other similar funds or entities for at least 2 years; and

“(ee) has advised such entity or a similar fund or entity with respect to at least 2 investments of not less than \$500,000 made by such entity or similar fund or entity during each of the most recent 2 years.

“(ix) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, the term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

“(x) SENIOR EXECUTIVE POSITION.—The term ‘senior executive position’ includes the position of chief executive officer, chief technology officer, and chief operating officer.

“(xi) UNITED STATES BUSINESS ENTITY.—The term ‘United States business entity’ means any corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, society, or joint stock company that is organized under the laws of the United States or any State and that conducts business in the United States that is not—

“(I) a private fund (as defined in 202(a) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-2));

“(II) a commodity pool (as defined in section 1a of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1a));

“(III) an investment company (as defined in section 3 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3); or

“(IV) an issuer that would be an investment company without an exemption provided in—

“(aa) section 3(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3(c)); or

“(bb) section 270.3a-7 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any similar successor regulation.

“(B) IN GENERAL.—Not more than 10,000 visas shall be available during each fiscal year for qualified immigrants seeking to enter the United States for the purpose of creating new businesses, as described in this paragraph.

“(C) ELIGIBILITY.—An alien who is a qualified entrepreneur is eligible for a visa under this paragraph if—

“(i)(I) the alien maintained valid non-immigrant status in the United States for at least 2 years;

“(II) during the 3-year period ending on the date the alien files an initial petition for such status under this section—

“(aa)(AA) the alien has a significant ownership in a United States business entity that has created not fewer than 5 qualified jobs; and

“(BB) a qualified venture capitalist, a qualified angel investor, a qualified government entity, a qualified community develop-

ment financial institution, qualified startup accelerator, or such other entity or type of investors, as determined by the Secretary, or any combination of such entities or investors, has devoted a qualified investment or combination of qualified investments of not less than \$500,000 to the alien’s United States business entity; or

“(bb)(AA) the alien has a significant ownership interest in a United States business entity that has created not fewer than 5 qualified jobs; and

“(BB) during the 2-year period ending on such petition date, has generated not less than \$500,000 in annual revenue within the United States; and

“(III) not more than 2 other aliens have received nonimmigrant status under this section on the basis of an alien’s ownership of such United States business entity; or

“(ii)(I) the alien maintained valid non-immigrant status in the United States for at least 3 years before the date on which the alien filed an application for such status;

“(II) the alien holds an advanced degree in a field of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics that has been approved by the Secretary;

“(III) during the 3-year period ending on the date on which the alien files an initial petition for such status under this section—

“(aa)(AA) the alien has a significant ownership interest in a United States business entity that has created not fewer than 4 qualified jobs; and

“(BB) a qualified venture capitalist, a qualified angel investor, a qualified government entity, a qualified community development financial institution, qualified startup accelerator, or such other entity or type of investors, as determined by the Secretary, or any combination of such entities or investors, has devoted a qualified investment or combination of qualified investments of not less than \$500,000 in total to the alien’s United States business entity; or

“(bb)(AA) the alien has a significant ownership interest in a United States business entity that has created not fewer than 3 qualified jobs; and

“(BB) during the 2-year period ending on such petition date, the entity has generated not less than \$500,000 in annual revenue within the United States; and

“(IV) not more than 3 other aliens have received nonimmigrant status under this paragraph on the basis of an alien’s ownership of such United States business entity.

“(D) NEW BUSINESS PLAN REQUIREMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A qualified entrepreneur shall submit a new business plan to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services if there has been a material change to the business plan referred to in subparagraph (A)(iii)(III).

“(ii) PRESUMPTION.—There shall be a presumption in favor of approval for any new business plan submitted pursuant to clause (i).

“(E) ATTESTATION.—The Secretary may require an alien seeking a visa under this paragraph to attest, under penalties of perjury, to the alien’s qualifications.”.

(3) NOTIFICATION.—

(A) FEDERAL REGISTER.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall publish a notice in the Federal Register to notify affected aliens with respect to—

(i) the availability of visas under paragraph (1);

(ii) the manner in which the visas shall be allocated.

(B) VISA BULLETIN.—The Secretary of State shall publish a notice in the monthly visa bulletin of the Department of State with respect to—

(i) the availability of visas under paragraph (1);

(ii) the manner in which the visas shall be allocated.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 11 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February, 14, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Joseph Simons, of Virginia, Christine S. Wilson, of Virginia, Noah Joshua Phillips, of Maryland, and Rohit Chopra, of New York, each to be a Federal Trade Commissioner.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February, 14, 2018, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The President’s Fiscal Year 2019 Budget.”

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February, 14, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the President’s budget and the following nominations: Dennis Shea, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador, and C. J. Mahoney, of Kansas, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Investment, Services, Labor, Environment, Africa, China, and the Western Hemisphere), with the rank of Ambassador.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February, 14, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February, 14, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting and hearing on the following nominations: Jeff T.H. Pon to be Director, Office of Personnel Management and Michael Rigas, to be Deputy Director, Office of Personnel and Management.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February, 14, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Making Indian Country Count: Native Americans and the 2020 Census.”

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 14, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Joel M. Carson III, of New Mexico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Colm F. Connolly, and Maryellen Noreika, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Delaware, William F. Jung, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, and Ryan T. Holte, of Ohio, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

The Committee on Small Business is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: avid Christian Tryon, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, and Hannibal Ware, of the Virgin Islands, to be Inspector General, both of the Small Business Administration.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

The Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Amanda Power, be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

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

SERGEANT ERNEST I. "BOOTS" THOMAS VA CLINIC

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 2246 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2246) to designate the health care center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tallahassee, Florida, as the Sergeant Ernest I. "Boots" Thomas VA Clinic, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 2246) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2246

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

SECTION 1. REDESIGNATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC IN FLORIDA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Health Care Center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 2181 Orange Avenue in Tallahassee, Florida, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Sergeant Ernest I. 'Boots' Thomas VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the clinic referred to in paragraph (1) shall be considered to be a reference to the Sergeant Ernest I. "Boots" Thomas VA Clinic.

AUTHORIZING REPRESENTATION BY SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 406, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 406) to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of United States v. Ahmed Alahmedalabdolkah.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 406) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, February 15; 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; finally, I ask that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 2579.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:37 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, February 15, 2018, at 10 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH REAR ADM. (LH) STEVEN J. ANDERSEN AND ENDING WITH REAR ADM. (LH) KEITH M. SMITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 16, 2017.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate February 14, 2018:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MARGARET WEICHERT, OF GEORGIA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MANAGEMENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271(D):

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) STEVEN J. ANDERSEN
REAR ADM. (LH) KEITH M. SMITH