

EC-5996. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Biofuels and the Environment Second Triennial Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5997. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Use of Byproduct Material—Medical Event Definitions, Training, and Experience, and Clarifying Amendments" ((RIN3150-AI63) (NRC-2008-0175)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5998. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inversions and Related Transactions" ((RIN1545-BO20 and RIN1545-BO22) (TD 9834)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5999. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2018-0125 - 2018-0131); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6000. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Borrower Defense Delay-Technical Correction" (RIN1840-AD28) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6001. A communication from the Vice Chairman and Executive Director of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of three recommendations adopted by the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 69th Plenary Session; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6002. A communication from the Vice Chairman and Executive Director of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of three recommendations adopted by the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 69th Plenary Session; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6003. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-397, "Fiscal Year 2019 Local Budget Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6004. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6005. A communication from the Director, Office of General Counsel and Legal Policy, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Executive Branch Financial Disclosure, Qualifies Trusts, and Certificates of Divestiture" (RIN3209-AA00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6006. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Visas: Documentation of Nonimmigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended" (RIN1400-AD17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2018; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6007. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Operating Officer of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an audit of the Garden for the period from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6008. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Rules Governing Trademark Interferences" (RIN0651-AD23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2018; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6009. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedule for Rating Disabilities: Skin" (RIN2900-AP27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2018; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-268. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of New Jersey memorializing its opposition to and disapproval of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's proposed plan to increase the amount of rent paid by persons who receive federal rental assistance; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 90

Whereas, The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") has proposed a plan that would increase the amount of rent paid by persons who receive federal rental assistance through HUD; and

Whereas, According to estimates by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, approximately 150,000 low-income households in New Jersey rely on federal rental assistance through HUD and about 99 percent of these households would see their rents increased under HUD's rent increase plan; and

Whereas, According to the same estimates, New Jersey households receiving federal rental assistance pay an average of \$4,620 annually in rent, which would increase by \$830 a year, or 18 percent, under HUD's rent increase plan; and

Whereas, New Jersey is experiencing an affordable housing crisis involving high and ever rising prices and a dwindling supply of affordable units, which is particularly severe in the State's urban areas, and which only would be exacerbated by HUD's rent increase plan; and

Whereas, It is altogether fitting, proper, and in the public interest, for this House to express opposition to HUD's rent increase plan, which would be detrimental to the many thousands of low-income New Jerseyans who rely on federal rental assistance and would see their rents sharply increase under the plan; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House expresses its opposition to and disapproval of the United States Depart-

ment of Housing and Urban Development's proposed plan to increase the amount of rent paid by persons who receive federal rental assistance.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President and Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and each member of Congress elected thereto from this State.

POM-269. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to continue the Meals on Wheels program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

Whereas, Meals on Wheels provide vital daily nutritional support to homebound low income seniors. Over 3 million seniors nationwide and 300,000 in Michigan were served by Meals on Wheels last year; and

Whereas, The federal budget proposal by President Trump would cut funding for the Meals on Wheels program. It would eliminate the Community Development Block Grant program which provides a portion of funding for local and state programs. While the elimination of the Community Development Block Grant could hurt many state Meals on Wheels programs, the most dramatic impact to the Meals on Wheels program may occur as a result of proposed cuts to the federal Department of Health and Human Services budget. Within that department, nutrition programs of the Older Americans Act provide support to Meals on Wheels chapters nationwide by covering approximately 30 percent of its costs; and

Whereas, The benefit of this food delivery program extends beyond providing low income seniors with essential daily nutrition. Studies have shown that homebound seniors who receive Meals on Wheels feel less loneliness and isolation. The daily deliveries by a Meals on Wheels volunteer also enable seniors to receive a well-being check and assistance in the event of an emergency; and

Whereas, Meals on Wheels is a cost-effective program that contributes to enabling seniors to stay in their homes, resulting in fewer nursing home admissions. Continuing this program benefits the lives of millions of senior and provides peace of mind to their families; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the Congress of the United States to continue the Meals on Wheels program; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation Adopted by the Senate, June 12, 2018.

POM-270. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to fund the Federal Aviation Administration's Drone Test Site Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 29

Whereas, The economic future of any society depends on its ability to develop new technologies and pioneer emerging economic sectors; and

Whereas, The civil and commercial use of unmanned aircraft systems, commonly referred to as drones, is one such emerging sector that is likely to shape future economies; and

Whereas, Although the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) published Part 107 of

the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 C.F.R. s.107 et seq. (2016)) in August 2016, which established the first rules and regulations for commercial drone use in the United States, the technology's commercial viability is still limited by the inability to fully integrate drones into the national airspace system; and

Whereas, Integration into the national airspace system, which would allow drones to reliably and safely share airspace with conventional manned aircraft, requires the FAA to develop a variety of industry-specific airworthiness credentials, air traffic control communication procedures, and operational regulations, especially for drones that fly beyond the line-of-sight of the operator; and

Whereas, Industry reports estimate that there will be roughly \$82 billion in economic impact, including over 100,000 advanced manufacturing jobs and \$482 million in tax revenue, created nationally within 11 years of the integration of drones into the national airspace system; and

Whereas, To support this emerging sector, Congress passed the "FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012" (49 U.S.C. s.40101) which established several research and development programs to support civil and commercial drone technological advancement and lay the groundwork for airspace integration; and

Whereas, Most importantly, the act established a Drone Test Site Program in which six geographically diverse test sites were created to provide the research findings and operational experiences needed to ensure the safe and efficient integration of drones into national airspace; and

Whereas, Through the "Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership," New Jersey, Virginia, and Maryland were selected to host a joint test site, with the Cape May Airport in Rio Grande, New Jersey serving as a primary research facility; and

Whereas, At this test site, leading researchers from Rutgers University, Virginia Tech University, and the University of Maryland focus on developing airworthiness certification standards, beyond visual line-of-sight flight operations, and long-distance drone communication technology, all of which are necessary for the safe and efficient operation of drones; and

Whereas, In addition to helping the United States become a global leader of civil and commercial drone technology, the Drone Test Site Program transforms New Jersey into a regional hub for this emerging economic sector; and

Whereas, Limited federal support for the program, however, now jeopardizes this bright economic future; and

Whereas, Because test sites do not receive direct federal funding, most are forced to rent their facilities for industry drone flights in order to finance research operations; and

Whereas, As a result, budgetary constraints make it difficult for test sites to conduct the extensive research that is needed to safely and efficiently integrate drones into the national airspace system; and

Whereas, Funding limitations, in turn, undercut the ability of test sites to accomplish their original objective of supporting airspace integration and delay the development of civil and commercial drone technology in the United States; and

Whereas, Congressional funding for the FAA Drone Test Site Program could rectify this problem and ensure that the United States becomes a pioneer of civil and commercial drone technology. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House respectfully urges Congress and the President of the United States to

fund the Federal Aviation Administration's Drone Test Site Program so that test sites are able to more effectively support drone integration into the national airspace system and ensure that the United States becomes a world leader in civil and commercial drone technology.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-271. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey urging the United States Congress to maintain the Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve to ensure gasoline supply and distribution stability in the northeast region of the United States in the event of an emergency; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 76

Whereas, In 2012, Superstorm Sandy made landfall in the northeastern United States and caused heavy damage to two oil refineries and left more than 40 petroleum terminals in New York Harbor closed due to water damage and power loss; and

Whereas, As a result of this storm damage and its impact on the gasoline supply and distribution chain, some gasoline stations were left without fuel for as long as 30 days; and

Whereas, In response to Superstorm Sandy's disruption of the northeast's gasoline supply and distribution chain, the United States Department of Energy created the first federal regional refined petroleum product reserve containing gasoline called the Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve (NGSR); and

Whereas, The NGSR holds one million barrels of gasoline in strategic locations in the New York Harbor area, the Boston, Massachusetts area, and in South Portland, Maine; and

Whereas, The NGSR creates a gasoline supply buffer large enough to allow the region to compensate for the initial impact of an event that disrupts the gasoline supply and distribution infrastructure until that infrastructure can return to full operation; and

Whereas, The federal budget proposed by the President of the United States recommends selling off the entire NGSR in the coming federal fiscal year; and

Whereas, The sale of the NGSR would leave the northeast region of the United States at risk of another gasoline shortage in the event of an emergency that causes a disruption to gasoline supply and distribution infrastructure, affecting the mobility of people, businesses, and emergency responders in the wake of a disaster; and

Whereas, It is altogether fitting and proper, and in the public interest, for this House to urge the President of the United States and Congress to maintain the NGSR for the safety and welfare of the residents and businesses located in the northeastern region of this country in the event of an emergency that disrupts the supply and distribution of gasoline; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House respectfully urges the President of the United States and Congress to maintain the Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve to ensure gasoline supply and distribution stability in the northeast region of the United States in the event of an emergency.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted

by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the President and the Vice President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives, and every member of the United States Congress elected from this State.

POM-272. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging the United States Congress to adopt the National Park Service's recommendation to extend the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to include the additional sites along the Lewis and Clark Expedition's Eastern Legacy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 326

Whereas, The Lewis and Clark Expedition (Expedition) and the Corps of Discovery are nationally significant for their exploration of the Louisiana Territory and search for an all water route to the Pacific Ocean; and

Whereas, Under orders by President Thomas Jefferson, the expedition was responsible for mapping the territory explored, as well as documenting new species of plants and animals and engaging with the Native American tribes they encountered; and

Whereas, Although part of the route was unmapped territory, the Lewis and Clark Expedition was able to use maps provided to them by Native Americans, European explorers and fur traders; and

Whereas, Ultimately, the expedition was able to link routes and maps together to find passage from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean, a feat that had never before been accomplished; and

Whereas, In order to recognize the historic significance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the National Park Service previously designated a trail that runs from Wood River, Illinois, to the West Coast in Oregon and Washington; and

Whereas, Public Law 110-229, passed by the Congress of the United States in 2008, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to study additional sites associated with the preparation and return phases of the expedition, located in Pennsylvania, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Missouri and Illinois; and

Whereas, Those sites were to be considered for inclusion in the "Eastern Legacy" of the expedition; and

Whereas, The National Park Service evaluated 25 distinct route segments used by the Corps of Discovery for the expedition to determine if they met the criteria for national significance established by the National Trails System Act; and

Whereas, In August 2016, the National Park Service published its Draft Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Extension Study, finding that three sections met the criteria established for inclusion in the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail; and

Whereas, Those segments include the Ohio River, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Louisville, Kentucky; from Louisville, Kentucky, to the confluence with the Mississippi River; and from the Mississippi River's confluence with the Ohio River at Cairo, Illinois, to Wood River, Illinois; and

Whereas, A portion of the proposed extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail includes sites along the Ohio River in this Commonwealth; and

Whereas, The inclusion of this segment along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is not only historically significant and appropriate, but may have a positive economic impact on those sites; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of

the United States to adopt the National Park Service's recommendation to extend the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to include the additional sites along the Lewis and Clark Expedition's Eastern Legacy; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each chamber of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-273. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey condemning the federal government's policy of separating immigrant children from their families at the United States' border; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 175

Whereas, On April 6, 2018, the U.S. Department of Justice enacted a "zero tolerance" policy under which all unauthorized crossings at the Southwestern border of the United States will be treated as criminal offenses, instead of civil offenses; and

Whereas, These policies separate families crossing the border without authorization, since the parents are placed in criminal detention centers while the children are taken into the care of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and

Whereas, These separations may last months, or even years, since the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have few procedures in place to ensure the reunification of separated families; and

Whereas, It has been reported that the motivation for these policies is not to maintain the safety of the children, but merely to deter persons from committing immigration violations; and

Whereas, The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, and the American Psychiatric Association, together representing more than 250,000 doctors in the United States, are requesting an immediate reversal of the "zero tolerance" policy citing irreversible health complications to the children; and

Whereas, Experts find this policy is detrimental to the health of young children causing short-term developmental delays and long-term health concerns such as heart disease, cancer, and morbid obesity; and

Whereas, Parent-child separation also increases symptoms of anxiety and depression in adolescents, and young children whose parents were detained exhibit multiple behavioral changes, including anxiety, withdrawal, numbing, anger, crying, changes in eating, sleeping, toileting, and changes in development and learning; and

Whereas, This "zero tolerance" policy is medically unsound and should be considered nothing less than government-sanctioned child abuse; and

Whereas, Separating children from their parents violates one of our society's fundamental principles which is that, to the extent possible, children should not be punished for the sins of their parents; and

Whereas, These policies also run counter to the interests of the State of New Jersey, which depends upon immigrants for its cultural and economic growth; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House condemns the federal government's policy of separating immigrant children from their families and contends that the federal government's actions are sanctioned child abuse.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the President and Vice President of the United States; the Majority and Minority Leaders of

the United States Senate; the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives; and every member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-274. A resolution adopted by the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach, Florida, condemning the denial of access to government officials to immigration detention facilities and shelters for children for humanitarian inspections and purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

POM-275. A resolution adopted by the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach, Florida, urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to take immediate steps to reunite children separated from their parents due to immigration detentions, and to prohibit any future parent and child separations by United States immigration authorities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-276. A resolution adopted by the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach, Florida, urging the Department of Health and Human Resources to provide and maintain adequate medical care, nutrition, housing, and educational standards in, and to permit access by elected federal representatives to, federal immigration detention centers and shelters for children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 3094. A bill to restrict the department in which the Coast Guard is operating from implementing any rule requiring the use of biometric readers for biometric transportation security cards until after submission to Congress of the results of an assessment of the effectiveness of the transportation security card program (Rept. No. 115-305).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH for the Committee on Finance.

*Charles P. Rettig, of California, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the term expiring November 12, 2022.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Britt Cagle Grant, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

David James Porter, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

A. Marvin Quattlebaum, Jr., of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Julius Ness Richardson, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Roy Kalman Altman, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Raul M. Arias-Marxuach, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

Rodolfo Armando Ruiz II, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed sub-

ject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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 Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. JONES):

S. 3241. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for the termination by a spouse of a lessee of certain leases when the lessee dies while in military service; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 3242. A bill to establish an American Savings Account Fund and create a retirement savings plan available to all employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 3243. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to Iranian persons who engage in politically-motivated harassment, abuse, extortion, or extended detention or trial of individuals in Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 3244. A bill to amend chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for a corporate responsibility investment option under the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 3245. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain National Forest System land in the State of Texas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. McCASKILL):

S. 3246. A bill to provide enhanced protections for taxpayers from fraud and other illegal activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3247. A bill to improve programs and activities relating to women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment that are carried out by the United States Agency for International Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 3248. A bill to restrict the provision by international financial institutions of loans and financial and technical assistance to the Government of Turkey, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3249. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to modify the amount in controversy requirement and remove the complete diversity requirement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.