

(2) are a foundational part of the workforce development system;

Whereas workforce development programs will play a critical role in addressing the expected 2,400,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs during the 10-year period following the adoption of this resolution;

Whereas community colleges and other workforce development training providers across the United States are well-situated—

(1) to train the next generation of workers in the United States; and

(2) to address the educational challenges created by emerging industries and technological advancements;

Whereas participation in a career and technical education (referred to in this preamble as “CTE”) program decreases the risk of students dropping out of high school, and all 50 States and the District of Columbia report higher graduation rates for CTE students, as compared to other students;

Whereas community and technical colleges operate as open access institutions serving millions of students annually at a comparatively low cost;

Whereas the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Public Law 115-224) supports the development and implementation of high-quality CTE programs that—

(1) combine rigorous academic content with occupational skills; and

(2) served approximately 12,000,000 high school and college students from 2016 to 2017;

Whereas there are more than 500,000 registered apprentices in the United States, and there is growing and bipartisan support for expanding earn-and-learn strategies to help current and future workers gain skills and work experience;

Whereas the federally supported workforce system and partner programs—

(1) have helped rebuild the economy of the United States and provide increased economic opportunities; and

(2) provide a pathway into 21st century jobs that support families while ensuring that businesses in the United States find the skilled workforce needed to compete in the global economy; and

Whereas workforce development is crucial to sustaining economic security for workers in the United States; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2019 as “National Workforce Development Month”;

(2) supports Federal initiatives to promote workforce development; and

(3) acknowledges that workforce development plays a crucial role in supporting workers and growing the economy.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 305—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 21, 2019, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK”**

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KING, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 305

Whereas estuary regions cover only 13 percent of the land area in the continental

United States but contain nearly 43 percent of the population, 40 percent of the jobs, and nearly 50 percent of the economic output of the United States;

Whereas the commercial and recreational fishing industries support over 1,700,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas in 2016—

(1) commercial and recreational saltwater fishing in the United States generated more than \$212,000,000,000 in sales and contributed \$100,000,000,000 to the gross domestic product of the United States;

(2) 9,800,000 saltwater anglers took recreational fishing trips; and

(3) saltwater recreational fishing supported 472,000 jobs, generated \$68,000,000,000 in sales impacts across the economy, and contributed \$39,000,000,000 to the gross domestic product of the United States;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for—

(1) countless species of fish and wildlife, including more than 68 percent of the commercial fish catch in the United States by value and 80 percent of the recreational fish catch in the United States by weight; and

(2) many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes, storms, and other extreme weather events;

Whereas, by the 1980s, the United States had already lost more than 50 percent of the wetlands that existed in the original 13 colonies;

Whereas the ecosystem functions of some coastal wetlands in the United States have become severely impaired by excess nutrients, chemical wastes, marine debris, invasive species, coastal subsidence and sea level changes, or upstream water and sediment management practices;

Whereas harmful algal blooms are hurting fish, wildlife, and human health, and are causing serious ecological and economic harm to some estuaries;

Whereas section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) (commonly known as the “Clean Water Act”) authorizes the development of comprehensive conservation and management plans to ensure that the designated uses of estuaries are protected and to restore and maintain the—

(1) chemical, physical, and biological integrity of estuaries;

(2) water quality;

(3) a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife; and

(4) recreational activities in estuaries;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 27 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate or contain a National Estuary Program or a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and Tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, is recognized as “National Estuaries Week” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State, local, and Tribal government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that human activities can have significant positive and negative impacts on the quality and productivity of estuary resources;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) supports the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED**

**SA 935.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

**SA 936.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. KENNEDY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 862, to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.

**SA 937.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. KENNEDY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 862, *supra*.

**TEXT OF AMENDMENTS**

**SA 935.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 7, beginning on line 12, strike “Notwithstanding section 110” and all that follows through “2018” on line 20 and insert the following: “The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall provide assistance, including multi-sectoral, non-humanitarian, and non-trade related foreign assistance, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Burundi to effectively combat the Ebola outbreak that began in August 2018, following certification from the Secretary of State pursuant to section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101) that each such country receiving assistance meets the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking or is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with such standards”.

On page 8, after line 13, add the following:

(c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing humanitarian assistance from being

provided to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**SA 936.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. KENNEDY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 862, to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Rebuilding Small Businesses After Disasters Act”.

**SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF SUNSET FOR COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SBA DISASTER LOANS.**

Section 2102(b) of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (15 U.S.C. 636 note) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “4 years” and inserting “7 years”.

**SEC. 3. GAO REPORT ON DEFAULT RATES.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report comparing—

(1) the performance, including the default rate, of loans made under section 7(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)) during the period—

(A) beginning on January 1, 2000; and

(B) ending on the date on which the Small Business Administration began making loans in accordance with the amendment made by section 2102(a) of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-88; 129 Stat. 690); and

(2) the performance, including the default rate, of loans made under 7(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)) in accordance with the amendment made by section 2102(a) of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-88; 129 Stat. 690).

**SA 937.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. KENNEDY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 862, to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.”

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 2 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 ARMED SERVICES**

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, August 1, 2019, at time to be determined, to conduct a hearing on pending nominations.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, August 1,

2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting and hearing on the nomination of W. Stephen Muldrow, to be United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico, Department of Justice.

**REPORTING AUTHORITY**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the Senate’s adjournment, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Friday, August 16, 2019, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.

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

**SIGNING AUTHORITY**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader and the senior Senator from Texas be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions on August 1 and August 2, 2019.

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

**APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

**NATIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 304, 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. 304) designating September 2019 as “National Workforce Development Month”.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 304) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that 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 preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 305, submitted earlier today.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 305) designating the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”.

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 consider 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. 305) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution with its preamble is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 44, S. 394.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 394) to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments. (The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldfaced brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

S. 394

*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 “Presidential Transition Enhancement Act of 2019”.

**SEC. 2. PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION ENHANCEMENTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “upon request,” and all that follows through “including” and inserting “upon request, to each President-elect, each Vice-President-elect, and, for up to 60 days after the date of the inauguration of the