

of the Senate on Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION, AND THE INTERNET**

The Subcommittee on Communication, Technology, Innovation, and The Internet of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 719, S. Res. 720, S. Res. 721, S. Res. 722, and S. Res. 723.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolutions, en bloc?

The resolution (S. Res. 719) was agreed to.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 720, S. Res. 721, S. Res. 722, and S. Res. 723) were agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The preambles were agreed to.  
(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

**VET CENTER ELIGIBILITY EXPANSION ACT**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1812, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1812) to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to certain individuals.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 (H.R. 1812) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**VETERANS' CARE QUALITY TRANSPARENCY ACT**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2372, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2372) to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement between Under Secretary of Health and non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities relating to suicide prevention and mental health services.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be 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 (H.R. 2372) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**RELIABLE EMERGENCY ALERT DISTRIBUTION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 492, S. 2693.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2693) to improve oversight by the Federal Communications Commission of the wireless and broadcast emergency alert systems.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask that the Schatz substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be 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 amendment (No. 2669) 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. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Reliable Emergency Alert Distribution Improvement Act of 2020" or "READI Act".

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(2) the term "Commission" means the Federal Communications Commission;

(3) the term "Emergency Alert System" means the national public warning system,

the rules for which are set forth in part 11 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation); and

(4) the term "Wireless Emergency Alerts System" means the wireless national public warning system established under the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.), the rules for which are set forth in part 10 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

**SEC. 3. WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS SYSTEM OFFERINGS.**

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 602(b)(2)(E) of the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47 U.S.C. 1201(b)(2)(E)) is amended—

(1) by striking the second and third sentences; and

(2) by striking "other than an alert issued by the President." and inserting the following: "other than an alert issued by—

"(i) the President; or

"(ii) the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.".

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall adopt regulations to implement the amendment made by subsection (a)(2).

**SEC. 4. STATE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLANS AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEES.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "SECC" means a State Emergency Communications Committee;

(2) the term "State" means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States; and

(3) the term "State EAS Plan" means a State Emergency Alert System Plan, the rules for which are set forth in part 11 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(b) STATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall adopt regulations that—

(1) encourage the chief executive of each State—

(A) to establish an SECC if the State does not have an SECC; or

(B) if the State has an SECC, to review the composition and governance of the SECC;

(2) provide that—

(A) each SECC, not less frequently than annually, shall—

(i) meet to review and update its State EAS Plan;

(ii) certify to the Commission that the SECC has met as required under clause (i); and

(iii) submit to the Commission an updated State EAS Plan; and

(B) not later than 60 days after the date on which the Commission receives an updated State EAS Plan under subparagraph (A)(iii), the Commission shall—

(i) approve or disapprove the updated State EAS Plan; and

(ii) notify the chief executive of the State of the Commission's findings; and

(3) establish a State EAS Plan content checklist for SECCs to use when reviewing and updating a State EAS Plan for submission to the Commission under paragraph (2)(A).

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Commission shall consult with the Administrator regarding the adoption of regulations under subsection (b)(3).

**SEC. 5. FALSE ALERT REPORTING.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a rulemaking proceeding to establish a system to receive from the Administrator or State, Tribal, or local governments reports of false alerts under the Emergency Alert System or the Wireless Emergency Alerts System for the purpose of recording such false alerts and examining their causes.

**SEC. 6. REPEATING EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM MESSAGES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a rulemaking proceeding to modify the Emergency Alert System to provide for repeating Emergency Alert System messages while an alert remains pending that is issued by—

- (1) the President;
- (2) the Administrator; or
- (3) any other entity under specified circumstances as determined by the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator.

(b) SCOPE OF RULEMAKING.—Subsection (a)—

(1) shall apply to warnings of national security events, meaning emergencies of national significance, such as a missile threat, terror attack, or other act of war; and

(2) shall not apply to more typical warnings, such as a weather alert, AMBER Alert, or disaster alert.

**SEC. 7. INTERNET AND ONLINE STREAMING SERVICES EMERGENCY ALERT EXAMINATION.**

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and after providing public notice and opportunity for comment, the Commission shall complete an inquiry to examine the feasibility of updating the Emergency Alert System to enable or improve alerts to consumers provided through the internet, including through streaming services.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after completing the inquiry under subsection (a), the Commission shall submit a report on the findings and conclusions of the inquiry to—

- (1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and
- (2) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

The bill (S. 2693), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2020**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be dis-

charged from further consideration of H.R. 6168 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 (H.R. 6168) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2020, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. 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. 6168) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4675**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4675) to amend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

**ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020, THROUGH TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma session only, with no business being conducted on Monday, September 28, at 2:45 p.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Monday, September 28, it next convene at 3 p.m., Tuesday, September 29; that following the pray-

er 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 being closed; further, that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 8337; further, that with respect to the cloture motion filed during today's session of the Senate, the filing deadline for all first-degree amendments be 4 p.m.; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motion filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020, AT 2:45 P.M.**

Mr. McCONNELL. 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 4:22 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 28, 2020, at 2:45 p.m.

**NOMINATIONS**

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

**IN THE AIR FORCE**

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. SEAN K. TYLER

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. PAUL S. LYMAN

**IN THE ARMY**

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. GUY M. JONES  
COL. CHARLES R. PARKER

**CONFIRMATION**

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate September 24, 2020:

**THE JUDICIARY**

RODERICK C. YOUNG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA.