

202-002, Removal of Obsolete Definitions” (RIN9000-AO05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5993. A communication from the Chairman of the Board, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation’s consolidated report addressing the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA or Integrity Act) and the Inspector General Act of 1978 (IG Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5994. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation: FAR Case 2019-002, Recreational Services on Federal Lands” (RIN9000-AN85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5995. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, four (4) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Justice, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5996. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Fourth Quarter of fiscal year 2020”; 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-253. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to declare the waters of the Straits of Mackinac as “designated” for purposes of Great Lakes commercial ship pilotage; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 244

Whereas, The Great Lakes are integral to Michigan’s environment, economic development, and recreation; and

Whereas, The federal Great Lakes Pilotage Act of 1960 established two distinct categories of pilotage on the Great Lakes—designated waters and undesignated waters—and authorized the President of the United States to determine designated waters. In 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower declared designated waters on the Great Lakes, including all United States waters of the St. Marys River, the Soo Locks, and approaches thereto. There have been no significant changes in designated waters since that time; and

Whereas, The act requires both United States and foreign-flagged vessels sailing in designated waters to be under the navigational direction of a United States or Canadian registered pilot to ensure marine safety and effective use of navigable waters. Further, foreign-flagged vessels operating in undesignated waters on the Great Lakes must have a United States or Canadian registered pilot on board to direct the navigation of the vessel or be available to assist in navigation if necessary; and

Whereas, Pilotage of foreign-flagged vessels on the Great Lakes is an important

function provided by individuals with years of experience sailing on the largest freshwater sea in the world. Pilots are charged with the safety of the vessel and boating public as well as protection of infrastructure and the environment; and

Whereas, The Straits of Mackinac, an environmentally sensitive area of great importance to the entire Great Lakes ecosystem, is an undesignated water. The Straits are often congested with commercial and recreational vessel traffic. Additionally, the area has restricted visibility, narrow waterways, and important infrastructure including the Mackinac Bridge and pipelines contributing to the unique navigational challenges that exist in the Straits of Mackinac; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the President and the Congress of the United States to declare the waters of the Straits of Mackinac as “designated” for purposes of Great Lakes commercial ship pilotage; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.

POM-254. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan discouraging the United States Congress from expanding the size of the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 323

Whereas, For over 150 years, there have been nine seats on the Supreme Court of the United States. While the country has grown and changed during that period, the Supreme Court has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to fulfill its constitutional role as the nation’s highest court and remain an independent arbiter of the law without additional justices; and

Whereas, In recent months, there have been calls to increase the number of justices on the Supreme Court in an effort to gain political advantage. The number of justices on the Supreme Court has been fixed by federal law since 1869 and efforts to expand the size of the Supreme Court in the century and a half since have been met with significant resistance from the American people; and

Whereas, The legitimacy of the Supreme Court is its most valuable asset. The Supreme Court’s ability to issue rulings which are followed nationwide rests on the American people’s respect for the institution’s independence and separation from day-to-day politics; and

Whereas, The federal judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court, must remain insulated from partisan disputes. Politicizing the Supreme Court by adding seats for the purpose of generating an ideological shift would be enormously detrimental for the public’s faith in the judicial branch as an independent and impartial branch of government. The framers of the U.S. Constitution envisioned a system in which Supreme Court justices and federal judges would serve lifetime appointments, ensuring that the judiciary would not experience the kinds of political pressures that are present in the elected branches; and

Whereas, Subjecting the Supreme Court to major structural changes as a consequence of shifting partisan control of the executive and legislative branches would bring the judiciary into the political fray in a way that would harm its ability to fulfill its critical role in our system; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we discourage Congress from expanding

the size of the Supreme Court of the United States; 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.

POM-255. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take necessary actions to review and enact federal law to fully protect developmentally or physically disabled federal benefit recipients from sexual and physical exploitation or abuse by payees and fiduciaries; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 51

Whereas, the Social Security Administration, through its Representative Payment Program, appoints family, friends, or other individuals to serve as payees’ representatives for beneficiaries who are incapable of managing their Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments due to age, developmental disability, physical disability, or mental disability; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, through its Fiduciary Program, appoints family, friends, or other individuals to serve as fiduciaries and receive payments for veterans who are physically or mentally incapable of managing their veterans benefit payments due to physical injury, disease, or age; and

Whereas, recent medical testimony before the Louisiana Senate Select Committee on Women and Children revealed that developmentally or physically disabled patients were being sexually and physically exploited and abused by caregivers who were also payees; and

Whereas, studies have shown that children are more likely to be abused if they are living with certain caregivers, and disabled adults with developmental disabilities are more likely to be abused compared to the general population; and

Whereas, the Social Security Administration and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs both have programs to assess and review the suitability of payees and fiduciaries; and

Whereas, the Senate finds that greater efforts must be made to protect developmentally or physically disabled federal benefit recipients from exploitation and abuse by certain caregivers who are payees or fiduciaries; and

Whereas, Social Security recipients, SSI recipients, and veterans are entitled to health care benefits through Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans health benefits; and

Whereas, Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans health benefits cover an annual wellness visit or routine medical examination with a primary care physician or other health care provider; and

Whereas, the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana finds that it would further protection efforts to require developmentally or physically disabled recipients of Social Security, SSI, or veterans benefits to undergo an annual medical examination with their primary care physician outside of the view of a caregiver so as to eliminate or minimize the possibility of sexual or physical exploitation or abuse from their caregiver who is also a payee or fiduciary. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to take necessary actions to review and enact federal law to fully protect developmentally or physically disabled federal benefit recipients from sexual and physical exploitation or abuse by payees and fiduciaries; and be it further,

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-256. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the Louisiana Attorney General and all appropriate federal agencies, including but not limited to the Federal Communications Commission, to investigate whether Altice USA or Suddenlink Communications has violated state or federal law in its dealings with the citizens of Louisiana; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 2

Whereas, internet connectivity has become a more essential service in the light of COVID-19; and

Whereas, tens of thousands of students in Louisiana are dependent on internet service to go to school, thousands of Louisianans are reliant on internet services for telemedicine, and small businesses depend on online sales more than ever; and

Whereas, the restoration of communication service after a natural disaster is paramount to relief efforts and Louisianans returning to their normal lives; and

Whereas, the Louisiana legislature has received more than one hundred complaints about Suddenlink engaging in deceptive trade practices, charging fees for services that are not delivered, providing poor customer service, failing to communicate about key events including hurricanes, and engaging in various other problematic and potentially illegal behaviors; and

Whereas, a joint commerce committee hearing examined how Suddenlink has been failing to meet its obligations to reconnect customers to essential communication equipment, has been charging customers for services it has not delivered, and has lagged behind its peers in assisting in recovery: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Attorney General to use the powers granted to him under the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law to investigate Altice USA and Suddenlink Communications and whether they have been engaging in actions that are prohibited under Louisiana law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request any appropriate federal agencies, such as the Federal Communications Commission, to investigate whether Altice USA and Suddenlink Communications have engaged in a violation of federal law in their dealings with the people of Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Attorney General, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-257. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the Louisiana Attorney General and all appropriate federal agencies, including but not limited to the Federal Communications Commission, to investigate whether Altice USA or Suddenlink Communications has violated state or federal law in its dealings with the citizens of Louisiana; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Attorney General, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-258. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress and the Louisiana Congressional delegation to take such actions as are necessary to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to more efficiently coordinate the removal of dislocated oilfield equipment after natural disasters in Louisiana; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 7

Whereas, hurricanes that blow through coastal Louisiana, particularly those that come ashore as a Category 3 or higher, such as Hurricane Rita in 2005 and particularly Hurricane Laura in 2020, leave behind destruction and dislocation of people, homes, and equipment; and

Whereas, Hurricane Laura is estimated to have caused between \$4 billion and \$12 billion in damages mostly to Louisiana and mostly in the coastal areas of Southwest Louisiana; and

Whereas, a component of that damage involves the dislocation of equipment from the oil and gas industry located in coastal Louisiana, including storage tanks, drums, pipe segments, and other equipment used in the oil patch, equipment that is picked up by the wind and water of the hurricane and dropped elsewhere in the coast; and

Whereas, nearly eighty percent of the land in coastal Louisiana is privately-owned land, so much of the dislocated oil and gas equipment lands on privately-held property; and

Whereas, some of the dislocated oilfield equipment contains materials that can cause

pollution if the tanks and drums are damaged through the dislocation and could also be the cause of marine accidents when they are located in waterways where boat captains do not expect to find such hazards; and

Whereas, initial efforts to locate and identify equipment displaced by a hurricane include an attempt to identify the owner of the equipment, notify the owner that their equipment has been found, and request that the owner remove their equipment from another person's property; and

Whereas, the second step in attempting to address the dislocated equipment is the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LaDEQ), the Louisiana State Police, and the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) working in cooperation with the United States Coast Guard and, under the auspices of FEMA, working to remove any tank or drum that could be the source of pollution in the marsh or could be the cause of marine accidents involving boats and displaced tanks or drums; and

Whereas, after sources of pollution and immediate hazards are removed by LaDEQ, State Police, and LOSCO, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Louisiana National Guard, again under the auspices of the FEMA, identify the location and nature of additional tanks, drums, and other oilfield equipment dislodged by the hurricane so removal plans can be developed; and

Whereas, plans for removal of dislodged equipment that is neither hazardous nor polluting include a development of a timeline and an assessment of the potential damage to the marsh that could occur as a result of removal efforts versus the damage that the item may cause by its relocation to the spot; and

Whereas, because the process is a bifurcated process, requiring removal of hazardous or polluting items first and then removal of the remainder of the equipment, many times a situation arises that results in a displaced tank being bypassed on the way to remove a hazardous or polluting tank when removing all the equipment at the same time would be more efficient, more cost-effective, and require less overall time to remove all the dislodged equipment; and

Whereas, the FEMA practices and procedures do not allow the removal of nonhazardous, non-polluting items prior to or at the same time as removal of other displaced oilfield tanks, drums, and other equipment, thereby elongating the process and increasing the damage to the private property located in the marshes of coastal Louisiana; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to more efficiently coordinate the removal of dislocated oilfield equipment after natural disasters in Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-259. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress and the Louisiana Congressional delegation to take such actions as are necessary to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to more efficiently coordinate the removal of dislocated oilfield equipment

after natural disasters in Louisiana; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, hurricanes that blow through coastal Louisiana, particularly those that come ashore as a Category 3 or higher, such as Hurricane Rita in 2005 and particularly Hurricane Laura in 2020, leave behind destruction and dislocation of people, homes, and equipment; and

Whereas, Hurricane Laura is estimated to have caused between \$4 billion and \$12 billion in damages mostly to Louisiana and mostly in the coastal areas of Southwest Louisiana; and

Whereas, a component of that damage involves the dislocation of equipment from the oil and gas industry located in coastal Louisiana, including storage tanks, drums, pipe segments, and other equipment used in the oil patch, equipment that is picked up by the wind and water of the hurricane and dropped elsewhere in the coast; and

Whereas, nearly eighty percent of the land in coastal Louisiana is privately-owned land, so much of the dislocated oil and gas equipment lands on privately-held property; and WHEREAS, some of the dislocated oilfield equipment contains materials that can cause pollution if the tanks and drums are damaged through the dislocation and could also be the cause of marine accidents when they are located in waterways where boat captains do not expect to find such hazards; and

Whereas, initial efforts to locate and identify equipment displaced by a hurricane include an attempt to identify the owner of the equipment, notify the owner that their equipment has been found, and request that the owner remove their equipment from another person's property; and

Whereas, the second step in attempting to address the dislocated equipment is the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LaDEQ), the Louisiana State Police, and the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) working in cooperation with the United States Coast Guard and, under the auspices of FEMA, working to remove any tank or drum that could be the source of pollution in the marsh or could be the cause of marine accidents involving boats and dislocated tanks or drums; and

Whereas, after sources of pollution and immediate hazards are removed by LaDEQ, State Police, and LOSCO, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Louisiana National Guard, again under the auspices of the FEMA, identify the location and nature of additional tanks, drums, and other oilfield equipment dislodged by the hurricane so removal plans can be developed; and

Whereas, plans for removal of dislodged equipment that is neither hazardous nor polluting include a development of a timeline and an assessment of the potential damage to the marsh that could occur as a result of removal efforts versus the damage that the item may cause by its relocation to the spot; and

Whereas, because the process is a bifurcated process, requiring removal of hazardous or polluting items first and then removal of the remainder of the equipment, many times a situation arises that results in a displaced tank being bypassed on the way to remove a hazardous or polluting tank when removing all the equipment at the same time would be more efficient, more cost-effective, and require less overall time to remove all the dislodged equipment; and

Whereas, the FEMA practices and procedures do not allow the removal of nonhazardous, non-polluting items prior to or at the same time as removal of other displaced

oilfield tanks, drums, and other equipment, thereby elongating the process and increasing the damage to the private property located in the marshes of coastal Louisiana. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to more efficiently coordinate the removal of dislocated oilfield equipment after natural disasters in Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-260. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to the manufacturing of personal protective equipment (PPE); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4897. A bill to reestablish United States global leadership in nuclear energy, revitalize domestic nuclear energy supply chain infrastructure, support the licensing of advanced nuclear technologies, and improve the regulation of nuclear energy, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Daniel Huff, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

*Gregory Autry, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

*Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2019.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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 Mr. BOOKER:

S. 4944. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to improve access to care for all Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries through models tested under the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 4945. A bill to improve end-of-life care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4946. A bill to counter Saudi Arabia's possible pursuit of weapons of mass destruction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 4947. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to require annual lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico region of the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 4948. A bill to provide funds for addressing COVID-19 conditioned on requiring the use of face coverings in public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 4949. A bill to require the Secretary of Health of Human Services to publish guidance for States on strategies for maternal care providers participating in the Medicaid program to reduce maternal mortality and severe morbidity with respect to individuals receiving medical assistance under such program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4950. A bill to improve the process for awarding grants under certain programs of the Department of Agriculture to certain counties in which the majority of land is owned or managed by the Federal Government and to other units of local government and Tribal governments in those counties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4951. A bill to improve the process for awarding grants under certain programs of the Department of Transportation to certain counties in which the majority of land is owned or managed by the Federal Government and to other units of local government and Tribal governments in those counties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 4952. A bill to establish a grant program to expand the domestic production of certain medical supplies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 4953. A bill to prohibit data brokers from selling, trading, licensing, or otherwise provide for consideration lists of vulnerable populations to any individual or commercial entity; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S.J. Res. 81. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to prohibit the use of slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for a crime; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):