

INTRODUCTION OF THE FERRY
SERVICE EXPANSION ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Ferry Service Expansion Act" with U.S. Senator PATTY MURRAY (D-WA). I want to thank my House colleagues for their support as original cosponsors of this bipartisan legislation.

Ferries are among the most climate-resilient modes of public transportation, capable of reaching areas where it is infeasible or imprudent to build new bridges or causeways. Historically, Congress has underfunded public ferry service compared to other transit and roadway projects. Our "Ferry Service Expansion Act" would correct this by increasing funding for both the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) formula and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) competitive grant programs to the levels requested by the Public Ferry Coalition, which represents public ferry operators across the country.

In the Bay Area, the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) is working to expand ferry service for commuters and visitors alike. WETA is also retrofitting its existing diesel-powered ferries to reduce emissions of particulates and greenhouse gases. WETA is pursuing new, zero-emissions ferries to eventually replace its entire vessel fleet. The "Ferry Service Expansion Act" would provide federal support for this important work, while also holding federal grantees to the high standards for "Buy American" requirements and prevailing wages under the Davis-Bacon Act that already apply to other federal funding for ferries.

Under current law, States may use their federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) for public or private ferry projects. In December 2020, the Bay Area Council released a feasibility study for employing hovercraft to provide ferry service in the South Bay. Hovercrafts can provide ferry service in environmentally sensitive areas that cannot be dredged to sufficient depth for vessels. Section 4 of the "Ferry Service Expansion Act" would simply clarify that States could use their STBG for hovercraft ferries, provided the project is otherwise eligible under the program as providing ferry service to the public. On July 1, 2021, the House passed this same provision as my amendment to Chairman PETER A. DEFAZIO's (D-OR) "Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation (INVEST) in America Act."

Lastly, our bicameral, bipartisan legislation would also support private operators of passenger ferries by allowing them to register Capital Construction Funds with the Maritime Administration (MARAD). Capital Construction Funds allow vessel operators to forgo paying federal business taxes on such vessels provided all that forgone tax payment is reinvested in constructing new U.S.-flagged vessels in American shipyards. Under current law, only cargo vessels and commercial fishing boats are eligible for this special tax exemption. However, some car ferry operators successfully registered Capital Construction Funds with MARAD, arguing that the cars are "cargo" and therefore their vessels are a

"cargo vessel" and not a "ferry." The "Ferry Service Expansion Act" corrects this discrepancy by ensuring that passenger ferries are also clearly eligible. On March 29, 2022, the House passed this same provision from my H.R. 6882 as part of the "Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022" (H.R. 6865).

As a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I continue working to secure additional federal funding to complement the state, county, and local investments to improve ferry service across the Bay Area. I plan to work with Senator MURRAY to make this legislation a priority. Madam Speaker, I encourage all members of the House to join us in cosponsoring the "Ferry Service Expansion Act."

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2022 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 27

4 p.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

Business meeting to consider S. 4573, to amend title 3, United States Code, to reform the Electoral Count Act, and to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to provide clear guidelines for when and to whom resources are provided by the Administrator of General Services for use in connection with the preparations for the assumption of official duties as President or Vice President.

SR-301

SEPTEMBER 28

Time to be announced

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Karla Ann Gilbride, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Jessica Looman, of Minnesota, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, Moshe Z. Marvit, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and other pending calendar business.

TBA

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine stakeholder views on the Brownfields Program reauthorization.

SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine keeping the pressure on Russia and its enablers, focusing on the reach of and next steps for U.S. sanctions.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity from Nuremberg to Ukraine.

SD-226

11 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 4828, to provide consistent leadership, purpose, and administrative support for the primary governmentwide executive councils, S. 4894, to provide for the perpetuation, administration, and funding of Federal Executive Boards, S. 4893, to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require certain disclosures by registrants regarding exemptions under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, S. 4882, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs, S. 4528, to establish a Government-wide approach to improving digital identity, S. 4816 and H.R. 7337, bills to require the Archivist of the United States to submit a plan to Congress to eliminate the records backlog at the National Personnel Records Center, S. 4328, to modify the fire management assistance cost share, S. 4399, to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government, S. 4668, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 400 North Main Street in Belen, New Mexico, as the "U.S. Senator Dennis Chavez Post Office", H.R. 7777, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish an industrial control systems cybersecurity training initiative, H.R. 5689, to improve the provision of Federal resources to help build capacity and fund risk-reducing, cost-effective mitigation projects for eligible State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments and certain private nonprofit organizations, H.R. 6824, to authorize the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security to hold an annual cybersecurity competition relating to offensive and defensive cybersecurity disciplines, H.R. 7211, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, review a final rule of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, H.R. 3544, to require the Administrator of General Services to transfer certain surplus computers and technology equipment to nonprofit computer refurbishers for repair, distribution, and return, H.R. 4209, to support remediation of illicit cross-border tunnels, H.R. 6873, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Office for

Bombing Prevention to address terrorist explosive threats, H.R. 228, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2141 Ferry Street in Anderson, California, as the "Norma Connick Post Office Building", H.R. 1095, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 South Willowbrook Avenue in Compton, California, as the "PFC James Anderson, Jr., Post Office Building", H.R. 5659, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1961 North C Street in Oxnard, California, as the "John R. Hatcher III Post Office Building", an original bill entitled, "Federal Contracting for Peace and Security Act", an original bill entitled, "Strengthening Agency Management and Oversight of Software Assets Act", an original bill entitled, "Department of Homeland Security Seal Protection Act", an original bill entitled, "Securing Open Source Software Act", an original bill entitled, "Invent Here, Make Here for Homeland Security Act", an original bill entitled, "Protecting the Border from Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act", an original bill entitled, "National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act", and the

nominations of Colleen Joy Shogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, Vijay Shanker, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and Laura E. Crane, Leslie A. Meek, Veronica M. Sanchez, Errol Rajesh Arthur, Kendra Davis Briggs, and Carl Ezekiel Ross, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SD-342

3:15 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on the Constitution
To hold hearings to examine S. 2298, to amend section 1977 of the Revised Statutes to protect equal rights under law.

SD-226

SEPTEMBER 29

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water
To hold a joint hearing to examine S. 3571, to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines.

SD-406

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert Harley Shriver III, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Richard L. Revesz, of New York, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

SD-342

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations
To receive a closed briefing on the Russian Invasion of Ukraine.

SVC-217

OCTOBER 12

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine putting the Bipartisan Infrastructure law to work, focusing on the private sector perspective.

SD-406