

EC-5273. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Unobligated Balances for Appropriations Relating to Quality Measurement"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5274. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Import Restrictions on Archaeological and Ecclesiastical Ethnological Material From Guatemala" ((RIN1515-AE76)(CBP Dec. 22-24)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 11, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5275. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension and Amendment of Import Restrictions on Archaeological and Ethnological Material from Mali" ((RIN1515-AE75)(CBP Dec. 22-23)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 11, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5276. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5277. A communication from the Supervisory Workforce Analyst, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Apprenticeship Programs, Labor Standards for Registration" (RIN1205-AC06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5278. A communication from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office of Inspector General's budget request for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5279. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Board's budget request for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5280. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Summary Reporting Requirements Under the Right to Try Act" (RIN0910-A136) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5281. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Calcium Carbonate" (FDA-2017-C-6238) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 11, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5282. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs,

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Change of Address; Technical Amendments" (RIN1212-AB55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 11, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5283. A communication from Associate General Counsel, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures for Disclosure of Records under the Freedom of Information Act" (RIN3045-AA59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 11, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5284. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a determination concerning a petition to add members to the Special Exposure Cohort under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5285. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Asylum Application, and Employment Authorization for Applicants; Implementation of Vacatur" (RIN1615-AC66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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-238. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to invest in hurricane storm damage reduction, flood protection, and drainage infrastructure projects in the Amite River Basin; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 156

Whereas, rainfall from hurricanes, tropical storm events, and local storms still pose a significant risk to the communities, ecosystems, and industries in the Amite River Basin; and

Whereas, in August 2016, catastrophic flooding occurred in the Amite River Basin, as well as other areas of the state, due to heavy rains from a slow-moving low-pressure weather system; and

Whereas, rainfall exceeded twenty inches over a forty-eight hour period across a swath of East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and St. Helen Parishes and exceeded the five hundred year storm level causing impacts to the nation's critical infrastructure by shutting both the I-10 and I-12 interstate systems for several days; and

Whereas, while flooding in the Amite River Basin has undoubtedly always been an issue, studies beginning in the 20th century have documented significant basin flood events in 1921, 1928, 1942, 1947, 1953, 1957, 1962, 1964, 1967, 1973, 1977, 1979, 1983, 1985, 1990, 1993, 1994, 2001, 2008, and of course the 2016 floods; and

Whereas, the 1979 flood was the flood of record in the Amite River Basin until the April 1983 flood, which was in turn eclipsed by the August 2016 flood; and

Whereas, the Amite River Basin hydraulically connects parts of eight parishes: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, St. Helena, and St.

James Parishes, and a small portion of St. John the Baptist Parish; and

Whereas, the parishes in the Amite River Basin continue to suffer from riverine flooding and the people who call the Amite River Basin area home deserve protection for their homes and business, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to invest in hurricane storm damage reduction, flood protection, and drainage infrastructure projects in the Amite River Basin; 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-239. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging and requesting the legislatures of each state of the United States to pass similar concurrent resolutions calling upon the United States Congress to support legislation and to take such actions as are necessary to review and eliminate all provisions of federal law that reduce Social Security benefits for those receiving pension benefits from federal, state, or local government retirement or pension systems, plans, or funds; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spouse and survivor Social Security benefit; and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefits payable to any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula unfairly reduces the spouse or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit even though their spouse paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on hundreds of thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than half a million individuals nationally are affected by the GPO; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP unfairly reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earned themselves; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than one and a half million individuals nationally are affected by the WEP; and

Whereas, in certain circumstances, both the WEP and GPO can be applied to a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and in combination eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the survivor; and

Whereas, because of the calculation characteristics of the GPO and the WEP, they have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise their quality of life; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing everyday as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, individuals drastically affected by the GPO or WEP may have no choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings accumulated during this return to work can further reduce the Social Security benefits the individual is entitled to; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can only be enacted by congress; and

Whereas, the Legislature of Louisiana adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 7 of the 2021 Regular Session memorializing congress to support H.R. 82 of the 117th Congress and any other federal legislation that would review and reduce or eliminate the GPO and the WEP; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request every state legislature in the nation to call upon their congressional Representatives and Senators to take all such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to eliminate or reduce them; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the attorney general of Louisiana to explore civil and other legal actions to restore public employees' social security benefits that they have paid for and earned, and to join with other affected states to recover rights and benefits of public employees; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the attorney general of Louisiana and the presiding officers of each state legislature and to the presiding officers of the United States Senate and House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation and the president of the United States.

POM—240. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of Louisiana expressing concern with respect to any potential agreement with the World Health Organization relating to global pandemic response for the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 116

Whereas, the World Health Organization, referred to hereafter in this Resolution as the "WHO", was founded in 1948 and is a specialized agency of the United Nations with a broad mandate to act as a coordinating authority on international health issues; and

Whereas, the WHO is currently helping to coordinate a worldwide response to COVID-19, a respiratory disease that the WHO declared to be Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020, and a global pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

Whereas, the United States has recently been the largest funding source for the WHO, providing from four hundred million to five

hundred million dollars to the organization each year along with the Gates Foundation, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the European Commission; and

Whereas, the United States' efforts to reform WHO procedures for preparing for and responding to future pandemics; and

Whereas, the United States has proposed amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) which will be voted on by the World Health Assembly scheduled for May 22 through 28, 2022; and

Whereas, the IHR are legally binding and supersede the United States Constitution and will cede additional sovereignty, control, and legal authority over to the WHO; and

Whereas, these amendments will not require a two-thirds vote of the United States Senate; rather, they will require a simple majority of the World Health Assembly's one hundred ninety four member countries; and

Whereas, these amendments would come into force as international law in November of 2022, just six months after their approval; and

Whereas, these amendments give the director general of the WHO the power to unilaterally declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern even over the objection of a country dealing with an outbreak of disease. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its belief that any agreement with the World Health Organization relating to global pandemic response for the United States should require approval by the Legislature of Louisiana or by a majority vote of the citizens of this state; and be it further

Resolved, That any such agreement should prohibit any threat to the constitutional sovereignty of this state and the inalienable rights of this state's citizens; and be it further

Resolved, That any such agreement should prohibit interference with an individual's right to make all medical and health-related decisions for themselves, their minor child, or any individual for whom they hold legal medical power of attorney; and be it further

Resolved, That any such agreement should prohibit bio-surveillance and the collection of medical or health-related data without full disclosure and consent of the individual; and be it further

Resolved, That any such agreement should prohibit the enforcement of treatment protocols, recommendations, and guidelines, allowing healthcare providers the freedom to treat their patients without reprisal; 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, to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and to each member of the Louisiana Senate.

POM—241. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to support amendments to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow private or investor-owned utility customers to receive federal funding for reimbursements related to charges incurred for utility damages resulting from natural disasters and to remove the requirement for states to seek waivers to receive Community Development Block Grant funding for storm damage costs incurred by private or investor-owned utilities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 151

Whereas, under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act,

public financial assistance may be available for repair, restoration, and replacement of state or local government facilities damaged by a natural disaster, including public utilities, but investor-owned utilities are ineligible to receive financial assistance under this program; and

Whereas, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds may be used by states and local communities affected by disasters to undertake short-term disaster relief efforts such as emergency restoration of electricity and other essential services, to mitigate the effect of a disaster, or to support long-term recovery and reconstruction efforts; and

Whereas, CDBG funds cannot currently be used to mitigate damage costs of private or investor-owned utilities, or their customers, when a natural disaster causes such damage, unless a waiver is granted by the secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and

Whereas, CDBG funding must be used to principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons, aid in eliminating or preventing slums or blight, or meet particularly urgent community development needs because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the public; and

Whereas, lack of electricity or gas is an urgent community need that poses a serious and immediate threat regardless of whether it is provided by an electric cooperative or a private or investor-owned utility; and

Whereas, damage to electric utility infrastructure in Louisiana, no matter how short of a time period, causes a serious threat to national security due to essential infrastructure strategically located within the state; and

Whereas, it is in the national interest of all citizens of the United States for utilities to expeditiously rebuild damaged infrastructure as soon as possible; and

Whereas, citizens of Louisiana bear the cost of rebuilding electric utility assets, which benefit the entire country; and

Whereas, several times over the past two decades, congress has granted the secretary of HUD significant authority to waive program requirements in disaster relief appropriations legislation; and

Whereas, the state of Louisiana has endured significant damage to its utility infrastructure over the past several decades because of major hurricanes striking the state and evidence supports that the state will continue to see increases in storm intensity and frequency; and

Whereas, electric cooperatives, in addition to receiving significant federal subsidies, are allowed to receive CDBG and federal funding for damage incurred to their infrastructure from a natural disaster; and

Whereas, private or investor-owned utilities, absent a waiver from HUD, are prohibited from receiving federal funding to repair their infrastructure damaged by the same natural disaster that electric cooperatives experienced, and must pass those costs on to their customers; and

Whereas, because electric cooperatives can receive federal funding to repair their damaged infrastructure, those costs are not passed on to their customers; and

Whereas, customers of investor-owned utilities pay higher bills than customers of electric cooperatives, even though the services those customers require meet the eligibility requirements to receive CDBG funding, therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to support amendments to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow private or investor-

owned utility customers to receive federal funding for reimbursements related to charges incurred for utility damages resulting from natural disasters and to remove the requirement for states to seek waivers to receive Community Development Block Grant funding for storm damage costs incurred by private or investor-owned utilities; 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—242. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to support the partnership between nonprofit organizations and the federal government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 115

Whereas, the nonprofit sector in the United States includes nearly one million five hundred thousand organizations and employs over twelve million people, making it the third largest workforce in the United States; and

Whereas, nonprofit organizations in the United States contribute over one trillion dollars to the economy each year; and

Whereas, the public sector relies on nonprofit organizations to provide necessary services to citizens, especially during times of economic downturns; and

Whereas, nonprofit organizations of all sizes and missions helped communities across the United States face unprecedented challenges despite labor shortages, disrupted operations, and increased demands for assistance; and

Whereas, partnerships between the public sector and nonprofit sector allow both to leverage resources, relationships, and strengths to further serve communities; Therefore, be it *Resolved*, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the importance of nonprofit organizations and memorializes the United States Congress to support the partnership between nonprofit organizations and the federal government; 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—243. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Wisconsin applying to the United States Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, for the calling of a Convention of the States limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

Whereas, the Founders of our Constitution empowered state legislators to be guardians of liberty against future abuses of power by the federal government; and

Whereas, the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

Whereas, the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the States through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded to a great extent; and

Whereas, the federal government has ceased to live under a proper interpretation of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, it is the solemn duty of the States to protect the liberty of our people—particularly for the generations to come—by proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States through a Convention of the States under Article V for the purpose of restraining these and related abuses of power; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the legislature of the State of Wisconsin hereby applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a Convention of the States limited to proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress; and; be it further

Resolved, That for purposes of this joint resolution, the phrase “limit the power and jurisdiction” means to restrict and constrain the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and that this joint resolution does not authorize a convention for proposing any amendments that expand federal power or jurisdiction, or that legitimize any current use of federal power that is unauthorized by the original Constitution; and, be it further

Resolved, That the secretary of state is hereby directed to transmit copies of this application to the president and secretary of the United States Senate and to the Speaker and clerk of the United States House of Representatives; to transmit copies to the members of the said Senate and House of Representatives from this state; and also to transmit copies hereof to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the several States, requesting their cooperation; and, be it further

Resolved, That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several States have made applications on the same subject.

POM—244. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Illinois that all resolutions, memorials, applications, or other enactments previously passed by the Illinois General Assembly, or either house thereof, petitioning Congress for a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution are rescinded, canceled, voided, nullified, and superseded upon passage of this resolution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 54

Whereas, Article V of the United States Constitution requires the Congress of the United States to convene a constitutional convention upon the application of two-thirds of the several states; and

Whereas, The Illinois General Assembly has made applications to the United States Congress to call one or more conventions to propose amendments concerning specific subjects to the United States Constitution, pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, Some of the applications on file from the Illinois General Assembly are from more than 100 years in the past, and since that time Illinois has more than doubled in population and our laws and resolutions should keep pace with progress in the State; and

Whereas, A constitutional convention convened by Congress could make sweeping changes to the United States Constitution

and threaten the liberty of future generations of Illinoisans; and

Whereas, The Illinois General Assembly is aware that other state legislatures have made applications requesting that Congress convene a constitutional convention; and

Whereas, The Illinois General Assembly does not want its previous applications for a constitutional convention to be included with any unrelated applications made by other state legislatures for a constitutional convention; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Senate of the One Hundred Second General Assembly of the State of Illinois, the House of Representatives Concurring Herein, that all resolutions, memorials, applications, or other enactments previously passed by the Illinois General Assembly, or either house thereof, petitioning Congress for a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution are rescinded, canceled, voided, nullified, and superseded upon passage of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent, within 30 days of passage, to the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of the Illinois Congressional delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Illinois General Assembly request that this Joint Resolution be published in the Congressional Record and listed in the official tally of state legislative applications relating to calling for the United States Congress to call a convention to propose amendments to the United States Constitution.

POM—245. A resolution adopted by the City Council of Atlanta, Georgia urging the United States Congress to adopt common sense gun reform measures; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CASEY, from the Special Committee on Aging:

Special Report entitled “Recognizing 50 Years of the Nation’s First Nutrition Program for Older Adults” (Rept. No. 117-196).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3046. A bill to codify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain landscape-scale forest restoration projects, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-197).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments and an amendment to the title:

S. 2561. A bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to provide that a land resource management plan or land use plan approved, amended, or revised under those Acts shall not be considered to be a continuing Federal agency action or constitute a discretionary Federal involvement or control for a distinct Federal purpose, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-198).

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: