

**SEC. 6. PRE-PROSECUTION ASSESSMENT PILOT PROGRAM.**

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish a pilot program to assist first-time prospective patent applicants in assessing the strengths and weaknesses of a potential patent application submitted by such a prospective applicant.

(b) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In developing the pilot program required under subsection (a), the Director shall establish—

(1) a notification process to notify a prospective patent applicant seeking an assessment described in that subsection that any assessment so provided may not be considered an official ruling of patentability from the Office;

(2) conditions to determine eligibility for the pilot program, taking into consideration available resources;

(3) reasonable limitations on the amount of time to be spent providing assistance to each individual first-time prospective patent applicant;

(4) procedures for referring prospective patent applicants to legal counsel, including through the patent pro bono programs; and

(5) procedures to protect the confidentiality of the information disclosed by prospective patent applicants.

**SEC. 7. FEE REDUCTION FOR SMALL AND MICRO ENTITIES.**

(a) **TITLE 35.**—Section 41(h) of title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “50 percent” and inserting “60 percent”; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “75 percent” and inserting “80 percent”.

(b) **FALSE CERTIFICATIONS.**—Title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 41, by adding at the end the following:

“(j) **PENALTY FOR FALSE ASSERTIONS.**—In addition to any other penalty available under law, an entity that is found to have falsely asserted entitlement to a fee reduction under this section shall be subject to a fine, to be determined by the Director, the amount of which shall be not less than 3 times the amount that the entity failed to pay as a result of the false assertion, whether the Director discovers the false assertion before or after the date on which a patent has been issued.”; and

(2) in section 123, by adding at the end the following:

“(f) **PENALTY FOR FALSE CERTIFICATIONS.**—In addition to any other penalty available under law, an entity that is found to have falsely made a certification under this section shall be subject to a fine, to be determined by the Director, the amount of which shall be not less than 3 times the amount that the entity failed to pay as a result of the false certification, whether the Director discovers the false certification before or after the date on which a patent has been issued.”.

(c) **LEAHY-SMITH AMERICA INVENTS ACT.**—Section 10(b) of the Leahy Smith America Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 41 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “50 percent” and inserting “60 percent”; and

(2) by striking “75 percent” and inserting “80 percent”.

(d) **STUDY ON FEES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall—

(A) complete a study of the fees charged by the Office; and

(B) submit the results of the study required under subparagraph (A) to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) **SCOPE OF STUDY.**—The study required under paragraph (1)(A) shall—

(A) assess whether—

(i) fees for small and micro entities are inhibiting the filing of patent applications by those entities;

(ii) fees for examination should approximately match the costs of examination and what incentives are created by using maintenance fees to cover the costs of examination; and

(iii) the results of the assessments performed under clauses (i) and (ii) counsel in favor of changes to the fee structure of the Office, such as—

(I) raising standard application and examination fees;

(II) reducing standard maintenance fees; and

(III) reducing the fees for small and micro entities as a percentage of standard application fees; and

(B) make recommendations for such administrative and legislative action as may be appropriate.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, 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 committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2773), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### REQUIRING THE COMMISSIONER OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS AT PORTS OF ENTRY

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 526, S. 3903.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3903) to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities.

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 an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic as follows:

**SECTION 1. PORT MAINTENANCE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 411(o) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(o)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) **PORT MAINTENANCE.**—

“(A) **PROCEDURES.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Commissioner, in consultation with the Administrator of the General Services Administration—

“(I) shall establish procedures by which U.S. Customs and Border Protection may conduct maintenance and repair projects costing not more than \$300,000 at any Federal Government-

owned port of entry where the Office of Field Operations performs any of the activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of subsection (g)(3); and

“(II) is authorized to perform such maintenance and repair projects, subject to the procedures described in clause (ii).

“(ii) **PROCEDURES DESCRIBED.**—The procedures established pursuant to clause (i) shall include—

“(I) a description of the types of projects that may be carried out pursuant to clause (i); and

“(II) the procedures for identifying and addressing any impacts on other tenants of facilities where such projects will be carried out.

“(iii) **PUBLICATION OF PROCEDURES.**—All of the procedures established pursuant to clause (i) shall be published in the Federal Register.

“(iv) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The publication of procedures under clause (iii) shall not impact the authority of the Commissioner to update such procedures, in consultation with the Administrator, as appropriate.

“(B) **LIMITATION.**—The authority under subparagraph (A) shall only be available for maintenance and repair projects involving existing infrastructure, property, and capital at any port of entry described in subparagraph (A).

“(C) **ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS.**—The Commissioner shall annually adjust the amount described in subparagraph (A) by the percentage (if any) by which the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the month of June preceding the date on which such adjustment takes effect exceeds the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the same month of the preceding calendar year.

“(D) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to affect the availability of funding from—

“(i) the Federal Buildings Fund established under section 592 of title 40, United States Code;

“(ii) the Donation Acceptance Program established under section 482; or

“(iii) any other statutory authority or appropriation for projects described in subparagraph (A).”.

(b) **REPORTING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives that includes the elements described in paragraph (2).

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a summary of all maintenance projects conducted pursuant to section 411(o)(3) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a) during the prior fiscal year;

(B) the cost of each project referred to in subparagraph (A);

(C) the account that funded each such project, if applicable; and

(D) any budgetary transfers, if applicable, that funded each such project.

(c) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**—Section 422(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 232(a)) is amended by inserting “section 411(o)(3) of this Act and” after “Administrator under”.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, 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 committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3903), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### THE CALENDAR

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: H.R. 5481, H.R. 6722, H.R. 6863, H.R. 7903, H.R. 7925, and S. 5016.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read a third time and passed and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

#### MASTER SERGEANT JERRY K. CRUMP VA CLINIC

A bill (H.R. 5481) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, as the "Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### RICHARD A. PITTMAN VA CLINIC

A bill (H.R. 6722) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the "Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### LT. COL. LUKE WEATHERS, JR. VA MEDICAL CENTER

A bill (H.R. 6863) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Memphis, Tennessee, as the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### MAJOR GENERAL OLIVER W. DILLARD VA CLINIC

A bill (H.R. 7903) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### SY KAPLAN VA CLINIC

A bill (H.R. 7925) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs commu-

nity-based outpatient clinic located in Palm Desert, California, as the "Sy Kaplan VA Clinic" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### COLONEL MARY LOUISE RASMUSON CAMPUS OF THE ALASKA VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM ACT OF 2022

A bill (S. 5016) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in Anchorage, Alaska, as the "Colonel Mary Louise Rasmuson Campus of the Alaska VA Healthcare System", and for other purposes, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 5016

*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 "Colonel Mary Louise Rasmuson Campus of the Alaska VA Healthcare System Act of 2022".

##### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Mary Louise (Milligan) Rasmuson was born April 11, 1911, in East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

(2) Mary Louise received a Bachelor of Science degree from the Carnegie Institute of Technology and a Master of Education degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

(3) Mary Louise was one of the first two women to receive an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

(4) In 1942, Mary Louise joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps as a Private and was in the first graduating class.

(5) Mary Louise worked up the ranks, and in 1957, President Dwight Eisenhower appointed Mary Louise as the Fifth Director of the Women's Army Corps and she was reappointed to this position by President John F. Kennedy in 1961.

(6) In 1962, Colonel Rasmuson retired from the Army.

(7) Colonel Rasmuson was recognized for her outstanding service in the Women's Army Corps with the Legion of Merit award with two Oak Leaf Clusters for her work in expanding the roles and duties of women in the Army, as well as her role in integrating Black women in the Women's Army Corps.

(8) Colonel Rasmuson became Director of the Women's Army Corps during tumultuous times and is credited with enhancing the image and recruitment of women into the Women's Army Corps during her years as the Director.

(9) Colonel Rasmuson expanded opportunities for women to serve in assignments previously reserved only for men, starting with the assignments of 12 enlisted women into the First Missile Master Unit at Fort Meade, Maryland.

(10) Colonel Rasmuson was instrumental in enabling women to be promoted above the grade of E-7 into the highest enlisted ranks of the Army, E-8 and E-9.

(11) During her time in the Women's Army Corps, Colonel Rasmuson was the guiding force behind the Army opening up the college enlistment option to women under the self-enhancement programs and witnessed the first female enlisted member attend college under those programs.

(12) The career of Colonel Rasmuson also laid the groundwork for women to be fully

integrated into the United States Army when the Women's Army Corps was disbanded in 1978.

(13) In 1961, Mary Louise married a prominent leader in Alaska, Elmer E. Rasmuson, and she was the first Director of the Women's Army Corps to be married while serving in that position.

(14) After her retirement from military service in 1962, Mary Louise moved to Alaska where she continued her leadership as a veteran in her community in Alaska.

(15) Mary Louise served as First Lady of Anchorage after the devastating magnitude 9.2 earthquake in 1964, after her husband, Elmer, was elected as mayor, serving from 1964 to 1967.

(16) Mary Louise was an advocate of social justice, education, and the arts during her 45 years of work on the Board of the Rasmuson Foundation.

(17) Mary Louise served as the Honorary Chair and was a major founder to renovate the Anchorage Veterans Memorial on the Delaney Parkstrip in downtown Anchorage.

(18) Mary Louise also contributed to the Army Women's Museum, the National Museum of the American Indian, and the National Museum of the United States Army.

(19) Mary Louise was the Chair of the Anchorage Museum Foundation and helped establish the museum in Anchorage, serving as its Chair for 21 years.

(20) On July 30, 2012, Mary Louise died at her home in Anchorage, at the age of 101, but her legacy of character and leadership will endure as an example to all who serve in the United States military.

##### SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF COLONEL MARY LOUISE RASMUSON CAMPUS OF THE ALASKA VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Anchorage, Alaska, shall, after the date of the enactment of this Act, be known and designated as the "Colonel Mary Louise Rasmuson Campus of the Alaska VA Healthcare System".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Colonel Mary Louise Rasmuson Campus of the Alaska VA Healthcare System.

#### THE CALENDAR

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: Calendar No. 471, H.R. 700; Calendar No. 477, H.R. 6614; Calendar No. 518, H.R. 228; and Calendar No. 555, H.R. 3175.

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

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills en bloc be considered read a third time and passed and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

#### LAWRENCE M. 'LARRY' WALSH SR. POST OFFICE

A bill (H.R. 700) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 303 East Mississippi Avenue in Elwood, Illinois, as the "Lawrence M. 'Larry' Walsh Sr. Post Office"