

S. 378

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 378, a bill to amend the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 to appropriately limit attorney's fees.

S. 380

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 380, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish the distribution of fentanyl resulting in death as felony murder.

S. 401

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 401, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove silencers from the definition of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 431, a bill to withhold United States contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and for other purposes.

S. 444

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 444, a bill to require any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the World Health Assembly to be subject to Senate ratification.

S. 467

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 467, a bill to modify the age requirement for the Student Incentive Payment Program of the State maritime academies.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 489, a bill to prohibit any direct or indirect United States funding for the territory of Gaza unless certain conditions are met.

S. 505

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 505, a bill to amend section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform immigration parole, and for other purposes.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 514, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Constance Baker Motley, in recognition of her enduring contributions and service to the United States.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 15, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Commerce relating to "Procedures Covering Suspension of Liquidation, Duties and Estimated Duties in Accord With Presidential Proclamation 10414".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 544. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to provide a sunset for certain ways in which credit unions may be Agent members of the National Credit Union Administration Central Liquidity Facility; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of the bipartisan bill that I introduced today with Senator CRAMER to help ensure the financial stability of smaller credit unions.

Congress created the Central Liquidity Facility in 1978 to improve the general financial stability of credit unions by serving as a liquidity lender to credit unions experiencing unusual or unexpected liquidity shortfalls.

Unfortunately, under current law, smaller credit unions often do not have access to this critical tool that could help them address liquidity shortfalls, especially amid higher interest rates.

That is why I am proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation with Senator CRAMER to allow corporate credit unions to buy Central Liquidity Facility capital stock for a chosen subset of its members rather than all of its members for the next 3 years. This would provide greater flexibility for smaller credit unions to use the Central Liquidity Facility's services.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill to meet the needs of our Nation's 6,000 credit unions and the communities they serve.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 555. A bill to improve disaster assistance programs of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 555

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 "Livestock Disaster Assistance Improvement Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

Title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 is amended by inserting after section 402B (16 U.S.C. 2202b) the following:

"SEC. 402C. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

"(a) ELIGIBILITY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAND USERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—An agricultural producer eligible to receive payments under sections 401 and 402 includes a person that—

"(A) holds a permit from the Federal Government to conduct agricultural production or grazing on Federal land; or

"(B) leases land from a State or unit of local government to conduct agricultural production or grazing on that land.

"(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection authorizes the Secretary to make a payment under section 401 or 402 to a State or unit of local government.

"(b) PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS.—Emergency measures eligible for payments under sections 401 and 402 include—

"(1) new permanent measures, including permanent water wells and pipelines; and

"(2) replacement or restoration of existing emergency measures with permanent measures, including permanent water wells and pipelines.

"(c) STREAMLINING APPLICATION PROCESS.—

"(1) WAIVER OF PUBLIC COMMENT.—During a drought emergency, as determined by the Secretary, the 30-day public comment period required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be waived with respect to an application to carry out emergency measures under section 401 or 402 on land administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (referred to in this subsection as the 'Secretary of the Interior').

"(2) ACCEPTANCE OF NRCS REVIEWS.—With respect to an application to carry out emergency measures under section 401 or 402 on land administered by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Interior may accept—

"(A) during a drought emergency, as determined by the Secretary, an archeological review conducted by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, for purposes of an archeological review required to be conducted;

"(B) an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) conducted by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, for purposes of such an environmental review required to be conducted; and

"(C) a review under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) conducted by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, for purposes of such a review required to be conducted."

SEC. 3. EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM.

Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

"(A) with respect to nonindustrial private forest land, an owner of the nonindustrial private forest land;

"(B) with respect to Federal land, a person that holds a permit from the Federal Government to conduct agricultural production or grazing on the Federal land; and

“(C) with respect to land owned by a State or a unit of local government, a person that leases land from the State or unit of local government to conduct agricultural production or grazing on that land.

“(2) **ELIGIBLE LAND.**—The term ‘eligible land’ means—

“(A) nonindustrial private forest land;

“(B) Federal land; and

“(C) land owned by a State or unit of local government.”; and

(C) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “nonindustrial private forest land” and inserting “eligible land”; and

(II) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(iii) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated), by striking “The term” and inserting the following:

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term ‘emergency measures’ includes—

“(i) new permanent measures described in subparagraph (A), including permanent water wells and pipelines; and

“(ii) replacement or restoration of existing emergency measures with permanent measures described in subparagraph (A), including permanent water wells and pipelines.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “an owner of nonindustrial private forest land who” and inserting “an eligible entity that”; and

(B) by striking “restore the land” and inserting “restore eligible land”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “owner must” and inserting “eligible entity shall”; and

(B) by striking “nonindustrial private forest land” and inserting “eligible land”; and

(4) in subsection (d), by striking “an owner of nonindustrial private forest land” and inserting “an eligible entity”; and

(5) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (g); and

(6) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) **STREAMLINING APPLICATION PROCESS.**—

“(1) **WAIVER OF PUBLIC COMMENT.**—During a drought emergency, as determined by the Secretary, the 30-day public comment period required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be waived with respect to an application to carry out emergency measures under this section on land administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Secretary of the Interior’).

“(2) **ACCEPTANCE OF NRCS REVIEWS.**—With respect to an application to carry out emergency measures under this section on land administered by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Interior may accept—

“(A) during a drought emergency, as determined by the Secretary, an archeological review conducted by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, for purposes of an archeological review required to be conducted;

“(B) an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) conducted by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, for purposes of such an environmental review required to be conducted; and

“(C) a review under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) con-

ducted by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, for purposes of such a review required to be conducted.

“(f) **EFFECT.**—Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary to make a payment under this section to a State or unit of local government.”.

SEC. 4. LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM.

Section 1501(c)(3)(D)(ii)(I) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(c)(3)(D)(ii)(I)) is amended—

(1) by striking “at least 8 consecutive” and inserting the following: “not less than—

“(aa) 4 consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period for the county, as determined by the Secretary, shall be eligible to receive assistance under this paragraph in an amount equal to 1 monthly payment using the monthly payment rate determined under subparagraph (B); or

“(bb) 8 consecutive”; and

(2) in item (bb) (as so designated), by striking “1 monthly payment” and inserting “2 monthly payments”.

SEC. 5. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEY BEES, AND FARM-RAISED FISH.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1501(d) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “drought,” after “adverse weather,”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “adverse weather or drought (such as added transportation costs, feed costs, and reduced honey crops for eligible producers of honey bees),” after “disease,”;

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking “In the case” and inserting the following:

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The payment rate under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) in the case of eligible producers of honey bees, incorporate per-hive and per-colony rates of loss; and

“(ii) incorporate a standardized expected mortality rate of 15 percent.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **DOCUMENTATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any requirements for the submission of documentation by an eligible producer to receive a payment under this subsection shall be consistent nationwide.

“(B) **PRODUCERS OF HONEY BEES.**—The Secretary, in consultation with eligible producers of honey bees, shall establish a standard, for purposes of this subsection, for—

“(i) collecting data; and

“(ii) setting an annual rate for replacing colonies and hives of honey bees.”.

(b) **APPLICABILITY TO PRODUCERS OF HONEY BEES.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall apply the amendments made by subsection (a) to producers of honey bees such that there is no limit on the size of a beekeeping operation with respect to those amendments.

SEC. 6. DROUGHT MONITOR INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an interagency working group (referred to in this section as the “working group”) to improve the availability of consistent, accurate, and reliable data for use in producing the United States Drought Monitor in accordance with section 12512 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5856).

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The working group shall consist of not fewer than—

(1) 3 representatives from the Department of Agriculture, including 1 representative from each of—

(A) the Office of the Chief Economist, who shall serve as the Chair of the working group;

(B) the Forest Service; and

(C) the Farm Service Agency;

(2) 4 representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including 1 representative from each of—

(A) the Climate Prediction Center;

(B) the National Centers for Environmental Information;

(C) the National Integrated Drought Information System; and

(D) the National Mesonet Program;

(3) 1 representative from the National Drought Mitigation Center;

(4) 1 representative from the Department of the Interior; and

(5) 3 representatives from mesonet programs in States—

(A) that have experienced severe drought, as determined by the United States Drought Monitor, in not less than 5 calendar years during the period of calendar years 2012 through 2021; and

(B) more than 50 percent of the land area of which is designated by the Economic Research Service as a Level 1 frontier and remote area.

(c) **DUTIES.**—The working group shall—

(1) develop a means for the inclusion of additional in-situ data into the process of developing the United States Drought Monitor, including—

(A) determining minimum requirements for data to be included in the United States Drought Monitor;

(B) identifying data available from other government agencies, including through portals managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(C) identifying gaps in coverage and determining solutions to address those gaps;

(2) identify and address potential barriers to the use of existing data, including—

(A) identifying Federal datasets that would be of immediate use in developing the United States Drought Monitor where access is restricted to some or all authors of the United States Drought Monitor; and

(B) developing proposed accommodations, modifications to contractual agreements, or updates to interagency memoranda of understanding to allow for incorporation of datasets identified under subparagraph (A);

(3) develop an open and transparent methodology for vetting data products developed using remote sensing or modeling;

(4) if determined appropriate by the working group, develop a methodology for inclusion of data that may otherwise be excluded from the United States Drought Monitor due to shorter periods of record; and

(5) identify and address any other issues relating to data availability and quality, as determined appropriate by the Chair of the working group.

(d) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Interior, and the relevant committees of Congress a report containing recommendations for changes in policies, regulations, guidance documents, or existing law to meet the objectives described in subsection (c).

(2) **DEFINITION OF RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—In this subsection, the term “relevant committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(e) ACTION BY THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of submission of the report under subsection (d), the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior, shall incorporate, to the extent practicable, the recommendations of the working group to improve the United States Drought Monitor in accordance with section 12512 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5856).

(f) TERMINATION.—The working group shall terminate on the date that is 90 days after the date on which the report is submitted under subsection (d).

SEC. 7. ALIGNMENT OF FARM SERVICE AGENCY AND FOREST SERVICE DROUGHT RESPONSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of submission of the report under section 6(d), the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency and the Chief of the Forest Service shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to better align drought response activities of the Farm Service Agency and the Forest Service (referred to in this section as the “agencies”).

(b) CONTENTS.—The memorandum of understanding entered into under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a commitment to better align practices of the agencies with respect to determining the severity of regional drought conditions;

(2) a strategy for amending those determinations to ensure consistent policy with respect to drought response in cases where the agencies are making inconsistent determinations within the same spatial scale;

(3) an agreement to utilize, to the extent practicable, the United States Drought Monitor in making those determinations; and

(4) an agreement to provide consistent information to grazing permittees, operators, and other stakeholders affected by determinations relating to drought.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 80—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2023 AS “HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE MONTH” OR “‘ŌLELO HAWAII MONTH”

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 80

Whereas the Hawaiian language, or ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i—

(1) is the Native language of Native Hawaiians, the aboriginal, Indigenous people who—
(A) settled the Hawaiian archipelago as early as 300 A.D., over which they exercised sovereignty; and

(B) over time, founded the Kingdom of Hawai‘i; and

(2) was once widely spoken by Native Hawaiians and non-Native Hawaiians throughout the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, which held one of the highest literacy rates in the world prior to the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i in 1893 and the establishment of the Republic of Hawai‘i;

Whereas the Republic of Hawai‘i enacted a law in 1896 effectively banning school instruction in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, which led to the near extinction of the language by the 1980s when fewer than 50 fluent speakers under 18 years old remained;

Whereas, since the 1960s, Native Hawaiians have led a grassroots revitalization of their

Native language, launching a number of historic initiatives, including—

(1) ‘Aha Pūnana Leo’s Hawaiian language immersion preschools;

(2) the Hawaiian language immersion program of the Hawai‘i State Department of Education; and

(3) the Hawaiian language programs of the University of Hawai‘i system; and

Whereas the Hawaiian language revitalization movement inspired systemic Native language policy reform, including—

(1) the State of Hawai‘i recognizing ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as an official language in the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i in 1978;

(2) the State of Hawai‘i removing the 90-year ban on teaching ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in public and private schools in 1986;

(3) the enactment of the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.) in 1990, which established the policy of the United States to preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American languages; and

(4) the State of Hawai‘i designating the month of February as “‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Month” to celebrate and encourage the use of the Hawaiian language: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 2023 as “Hawaiian Language Month” or “‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Month”;

(2) commits to preserving, protecting, and promoting the use, practice, and development of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in alignment with the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.); and

(3) urges the people of the United States and interested groups to celebrate ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i with appropriate activities and programs to demonstrate support for ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i.

SENATE RESOLUTION 81—RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEANS FOR THE SENATE TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND CONSENT REGARDING THE FORM OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO PANDEMIC PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. CRAMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 81

Whereas clause 2 of section 2 of article II of the Constitution of the United States empowers the President “by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur”;

Whereas without appropriate and meaningful consultation with the Senate—

(1) the requirement for Senate advice and consent to treaties remains unfulfilled; and

(2) in some cases, executive agreements, political agreements, and other arrangements have been improperly used by the Executive branch to circumvent the appropriate review of significant agreements by Congress;

Whereas as an appropriate exercise of the advice and consent power entrusted to the Senate, the Senate may refuse to consider

legislative measures intended to authorize or appropriate funds to implement international agreements which, in the opinion of the Senate, constitute treaties under the Constitution of the United States to which the Senate has not given its advice and consent to ratification;

Whereas clause 2 of section 5 of article I of the Constitution of the United States, grants plenary power to the Senate to “determine the Rules of its Proceedings”;

Whereas an international agreement should take the form of a treaty requiring Senate advice and consent and should be transmitted by the President to the Senate for the Senate’s consideration and approval if—

(1) the agreement involves commitments or risks affecting the nation as a whole;

(2) the agreement is intended to affect State laws;

(3) the agreement will not take effect until after subsequent legislation is enacted by Congress;

(4) similar agreements were subjected to the advice and consent of the Senate;

(5) similar agreements are typically subject to the approval of national legislatures in other countries;

(6) Congress has expressed a preference regarding its involvement in such type of agreement;

(7) the agreement involves a high degree of formality;

(8) the agreement is not routine, is not expected to have a short duration, and does not need to be promptly concluded; or

(9) if the agreement is intended to implement an existing treaty or make technical amendments to an existing treaty, the relevant Senate committee has previously indicated that such implementation or amendments are significant enough to require submission to the Senate for its advice and consent:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Resolution may be cited as the “World Health Organization Pandemic Treaty Implementation Resolution”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Resolution is for the Senate, as the Article I branch of the United States Government that is entrusted with the Advice and Consent power under clause 2 of section 2 of article II of the Constitution of the United States, to establish, through the use of the rulemaking authority of the Senate, a means for determining the form that an international agreement, protocol, legal instrument or agreed outcome with legal force, signed by the President or by his designee, shall take and to which the President intends the United States to become a Party or to otherwise be bound under international law, in whole or in part.

SEC. 3. DECLARATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Exercising the rulemaking authority of the Senate, the Senate declares, under clause 2 of section 2 of article II of the Constitution of the United States, that any international convention, agreement, protocol, legal instrument, or agreed outcome with legal force relating to pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response drafted by the intergovernmental negotiating body of the World Health Assembly that—

(1) is intended to be adopted pursuant to Article 19 or any other provision of the Constitution of the World Health Organization; and

(2) establishes significant international commitments by the United States under the authority of World Health Assembly Decision SSA2(5) or any related decision,