

room and the modification of Senate sound and lighting fixtures);

“(B) employ necessary expert consultants; and

“(C) acquire and install all necessary equipment and facilities to—

“(i) produce a broadcast-quality ‘live’ audio and color video signal of Senate proceedings; and

“(ii) provide an archive-quality audio and color video recording of Senate proceedings.

“(2) APPROVAL REQUIRED.—In carrying out the duties specified in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1), the Architect of the Capitol shall not enter into any contract for the purchase or installation of equipment, for employment of any consultant, or for the provision of training to any person, unless the same shall first have been approved by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

“(c) SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE DUTIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate shall—

“(A) employ such staff as may be necessary, working in conjunction with the Senate Recording Studio, to operate and maintain all broadcast equipment installed pursuant to this resolution; and

“(B)(i) make recordings of Senate proceedings; and

“(ii) make copies of recordings as requested by the Secretary of the Senate under paragraph (3) and, as soon thereafter as possible, transmit the copies of recordings to the Secretary.

“(2) COMPLIANCE WITH SENATE RULES AND PROCEDURES.—The Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, in carrying out the duties specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1), shall comply with appropriate Senate procurement and other regulations.

“(3) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE.—The Secretary of the Senate is authorized to obtain from the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate recordings of Senate proceedings and, as soon thereafter as possible, transmit such recordings to the Librarian of Congress and to the Archivist of the United States.

#### “SEC. 5. LIMITATIONS ON USE OF RECORDINGS.

“(a) PROHIBITION ON USE FOR POLITICAL CAMPAIGN PURPOSES.—The use of any recording of Senate proceedings for political campaign purposes is strictly prohibited.

“(b) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), any recording of Senate proceedings furnished to any person or organization shall be made on the condition, agreed to in writing, that the recording shall not be used for political campaign purposes.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Any public or commercial news organization furnished a recording described in paragraph (1) shall be subject to the provisions of paragraph (1) but shall not be required to enter into a written agreement.

#### “SEC. 6. AVAILABILITY OF BROADCAST COVERAGE.

“Broadcast coverage of Senate proceedings shall be made available on a ‘live’ basis and free of charge to—

“(1) any accredited member of the Senate Radio and Television Correspondents Gallery;

“(2) the cable system of the Architect of the Capitol; and

“(3) such other news gathering, educational, or information distributing entity as may be authorized by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

#### “SEC. 7. BROADCASTING PROHIBITION.

“Official noting of a Senator’s absence from committees while the Senate is broadcasting is prohibited.

#### “SEC. 8. CLOSED CAPTIONING.

“Closed captioning for broadcast coverage of Senate proceedings shall be provided as directed by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

#### “SEC. 9. BROADCASTING AND REPORTING PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Any changes in the regulations made by this resolution shall be made only by Senate resolution.

“(b) COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION.—The Committee on Rules and Administration may adopt such procedures and such regulations, which do not contravene the regulations made by this resolution, as the Committee deems necessary to assure the proper implementation of the purposes of this resolution.

#### “SEC. 10. FUNDING.

“Such funds as may be necessary (but not in excess of \$3,500,000) to carry out this resolution shall be expended from the contingent fund of the Senate.”

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Senate Resolution 444 (99th Congress), agreed to July 15, 1986, is repealed.

### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 44—DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL H.R. 5009

Mr. REED submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 44

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring).* That in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 5009, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following corrections:

(1) In the table of contents in section 2(b), strike the item relating to section 5705 and insert the following:

Sec. 5705. Readmission requirements for servicemembers.

(2) In the table of section 601 regarding basic pay for enlisted members, in the entry relating to a member in pay grade E-5 with over 2 years, strike “3,317.10” and insert “3,466.50”.

(3) In such table, in the entry relating to a member in such pay grade with over 3 years, strike “3,480.90” and insert “3,637.50”.

(4) In such table, in the entry relating to a member in such pay grade with over 4 years, strike “3,638.40” and insert “3,802.20”.

(5) In such table, in the entry relating to a member in such pay grade with over 6 years, strike “3,789.00” and insert “3,959.40”.

(6) In such table, in the entry relating to a member in such pay grade with over 8 years, strike “3,964.20” and insert “4,142.40”.

(7) In the table of contents preceding section 5705 and insert the following:

Sec. 5705. Readmission requirements for servicemembers.

(8) Strike section 5705 and insert the following:

#### SEC. 5705. READMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS.

Subsection (a) of section 484C of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091c(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) DEFINITION OF SERVICE IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.—In this section, the term ‘service in the uniformed services’ means service (whether voluntary or involuntary) on active duty in the Armed Forces, including such service by a member of the National Guard or Reserve.”

(9) Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.”

### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 45—AFFIRMING THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR SYRIA

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 45

Whereas in December 2024, following decades of pressure and sacrifice by the Syrian people and from international condemnation, the al Assad family’s era of heinous war crimes and authoritarian rule ended and Bashar Assad fled to Moscow, where Putin granted him political asylum;

Whereas, as a result of the opportunity his departure has presented to the Syrian people, the United States reaffirms its support to all the Syrian people, and urges an inclusive and peaceful transition by Syrians, for Syria.

Whereas national, ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples, including Alawites, Armenians, Druze, Yezidis, Kurds, Shabak, Turkmen, and historic Christian communities (including Chaldean, Syriac, Assyrian, and Melkite peoples) among others, have been integral components of the long cultural lineage of Syria;

Whereas these same religious and ethnic minorities have made, and continue to make, invaluable and significant contributions to the social, economic, and political fabric of societies across the Middle East and the world, including the United States;

Whereas the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (referred to in this preamble as “ISIS”) is responsible for carrying out a brutal campaign of violence against members of all faiths in Syria and Iraq;

Whereas ethnic and religious minorities were subjected to innumerable atrocities by ISIS, including forced religious conversion, kidnapping, slavery, human trafficking, unlawful forced displacement, ethnic cleansing, torture, sexual violence, and sex trafficking, among other crimes;

Whereas the Secretary of State declared on March 17, 2016, and on August 15, 2017, that ISIS is responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and other atrocities against religious and ethnic minority groups in Syria and Iraq, including Shia Muslims, Christians, and Yezidis, among other religious and ethnic groups;

Whereas the Iraq and Syria Genocide Relief and Accountability Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-300) affirms that it is the policy of the United States to ensure that assistance for religious and ethnic minorities is directed towards those who—

(1) have the greatest need, including minorities who the Secretary of State declared were targeted for genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes; and

(2) have been identified as being at risk of persecution, forced migration, genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes;

Whereas members of these religious and ethnic minority communities continue to

face daily insecurity, discrimination, hardship, and violence from state and non-state actors;

Whereas Syrian opposition forces have repeatedly signaled their intent to respect the rights and dignity of religious and ethnic minorities in Syria, but there have been incidents of members of such minorities fleeing their homes while there is documented violence and expulsions against Kurdish communities by elements of the Syrian National Army;

Whereas the restoration and stabilization of all regions of Syria will provide an opportunity for its longstanding diverse ethnic and religious communities to flourish;

Whereas the Syrian Democratic Forces (referred to in this preamble as the "SDF") has been a critical partner to United States and allied counter-ISIS and broader counterterrorism efforts in Syria, and the United States should continue to support and partner with the SDF;

Whereas the SDF has played a critical role in securing and maintaining ISIS detention facilities and ensuring that ISIS terrorists do not pose a renewed threat to the region or United States allies or partners;

Whereas the search continues for Austin Bennett Tice, an American journalist, who was kidnapped in Syria on August 14, 2012; and

Whereas the Syrian Democratic Council—  
(1) serves as the civil administration for much of northeast Syria; and  
(2) has provided critical public services and maintained civilian infrastructure in that region throughout the Syrian conflict: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) commits to protecting and upholding the internationally recognized human rights of members of all religious and ethnic minority communities in Syria;

(2) calls for an inclusive and peaceful political transition process in Syria that preserves and protects the rights and livelihoods of all Syria communities, including its religious and ethnic minority communities;

(3) supports the preservation, documentation, and restoration of—

(A) religious and cultural heritage sites in Syria; and

(B) community buildings of religious and ethnic minority communities in the region;

(4) calls upon all state and non-state actors—

(A) to cease any and all support for, or commission of, all current violence in Syria; and

(B) to refrain from future violence and acts of reprisal or repression against all Syrians, including religious and ethnic minority communities in Syria;

(5) encourages the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development—

(A) to advocate for the protection of religious and ethnic minorities in Syria; and

(B) to engage in appropriate steps, including targeted sanctions relief and development programming to support humanitarian needs, development, and reconstruction in Syria, including in religious and ethnic minority communities; and

(6) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to finding and securing the release of Austin Tice.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 46—PROVIDING FOR CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 4367

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following con-

current resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 46

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That in the enrollment of S. 4367, an Act to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:*

(1) In paragraph (2) of section 203(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2231(d)) (as added by section 1109(a)(3)(C)), strike "maximum Federal cost" and insert "Federal share of the cost".

(2) In section 204(c)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2232(c)(1)) (as amended by section 1110(a)(1)), strike "United States funds" and insert "United States".

(3) In section 1142(3), strike "in paragraph (4) and inserting the following" and insert "by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following".

(4) In section 1203(a)(1), strike "food" and insert "flood".

(5) In paragraph (2) of section 1113(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4232; 110 Stat. 3719; 136 Stat. 3781) (as added by section 1355(1)(B))—

(A) in the paragraph heading, strike "RECONNAISSANCE STUDY" and insert "PRE-DESIGN PLANNING COSTS"; and

(B) strike "a reconnaissance study carried out by the Secretary" and insert "pre-design planning costs".

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3343. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for Mr. DAINES) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3373, to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licensees are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects.

SA 3344. Mr. BLUMENTHAL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 5136, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Plum Island.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3343. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for Mr. DAINES) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3373, to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licensees are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF TIME TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN HYDROPOWER PROJECTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF COVERED PROJECT.—In this section, the term "covered project" means a hydropower project with respect to which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a license before March 13, 2020.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806), on the request of a licensee of a covered project, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission may, after reasonable notice and for good cause shown, extend in accordance with subsection (c) the period during which the licensee is required to commence construction of the covered

project for an additional 4 years beyond the 8 years authorized by that section.

(c) PERIOD OF EXTENSION.—An extension of time to commence construction of a covered project under subsection (b) shall—

(1) begin on the date on which the final extension of the period for commencement of construction granted to the licensee under section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) expires; and

(2) end on the date that is 4 years after the latest date to which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is authorized to extend the period for commencement of construction under that section.

(d) REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.—If the time period required under section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) to commence construction of a covered project expires after December 31, 2023, and before the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission may reinstate the license for the applicable project effective as of the date of expiration of the license; and

(2) the extension authorized under subsection (b) shall take effect on the date of that expiration.

SA 3344. Mr. BLUMENTHAL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 5136, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Plum Island; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Plum Island Preservation Study Act".

##### SEC. 2. PLUM ISLAND PRESERVATION STUDY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term "study area" means the consolidated Federal asset commonly known as "Plum Island" in the State of New York and all improvements on and to the Federal asset, including—

(A) the Orient Point facility; and

(B) all real and personal property, all transportation assets, and all associated infrastructure that support—

(i) Plum Island operations; and

(ii) access to Plum Island.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to determine the appropriateness of—

(A) designating all or a portion of the study area as a unit of the National Park System or a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System; or

(B) providing protection for the resources of the study area by other means.

(2) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) evaluate the national significance of the study area;

(B) consult with interested Federal agencies, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(C) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives considered.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(A) the findings and conclusions of the study; and