

the trust funds as provided for in this Act are authorized to be appropriated.

#### MICCOSUKEE RESERVED AREA AMENDMENTS ACT

A bill (H.R. 504) to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### PROVIDING OUR REGIONAL COMPANIONS UPGRADED PROTECTION IN NEFARIOUS ENVIRONMENTS ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 232, S. 1744.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1744) to amend the Arms Export Control Act to include Taiwan among the list of recipient countries with respect to which shorter certification and reporting periods apply and to expedite licensing for allies transferring military equipment to Taiwan, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Providing Our Regional Companions Upgraded Protection in Nefarious Environments Act" or "PORCUPINE Act".*

##### SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF CERTIFICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3 (22 U.S.C. 2753)—

(A) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting "Taiwan," before "or the"; and

(B) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking "or New Zealand" and inserting "New Zealand, or Taiwan";

(ii) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by striking "or New Zealand" and inserting "New Zealand, or Taiwan"; and

(iii) in paragraph (5), by striking "or New Zealand" and inserting "New Zealand, or Taiwan";

(2) in section 21 (22 U.S.C. 2761)—

(A) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking "or New Zealand" and inserting "New Zealand, or Taiwan"; and

(B) in subsection (h)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking "or Israel" and inserting "Israel, or Taiwan"; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking "or Israel" and inserting "Israel, or Taiwan";

(3) in section 36 (22 U.S.C. 2776)—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (P), in the second sentence, by striking "or New Zealand" and inserting "New Zealand, or Taiwan";

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking "or New Zealand" and inserting "New Zealand, or Taiwan"; and

(iii) in paragraph (6), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "or New Zea-

land" and inserting "New Zealand, or Taiwan";

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking "or New Zealand" and inserting "New Zealand, or Taiwan"; and

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking "or New Zealand" and inserting "New Zealand, or Taiwan"; and

(C) in subsection (d)(2)(A), by striking "or New Zealand" and inserting "New Zealand, or Taiwan";

(4) in section 62(c)(1) (22 U.S.C. 2796a(c)(1)), by striking "or New Zealand" and inserting "New Zealand, or Taiwan"; and

(5) in section 63(a)(2) (22 U.S.C. 2796b(a)(2)), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "or New Zealand" and inserting "New Zealand, or Taiwan".

(b) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this section, and every two years thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation and effectiveness of the amendments made by this section.

##### SEC. 3. FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT OF EXPEDITED LICENSING FOR ALLIES TRANSFERRING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO TAIWAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall conduct an assessment of the feasibility of establishing an expedited decision-making process for third party transfers of defense articles and services from North Atlantic Treaty Organization member countries, Japan, Australia, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, or Israel to Taiwan, including transfers and retransfers of United States-origin grant, Foreign Military Sales, and Direct Commercial Sales end-items not covered by an exemption under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations under subchapter M of chapter I of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall include an assessment of the following:

(1) The availability of such an expedited decision-making process for classified and unclassified items.

(2) The feasibility of requiring—

(A) the approval, return, or denial of any licensing application to export defense articles and services that is related to a government-to-government agreement within 15 days after the submission of such application; and

(B) the completion of the review of all other licensing requests not later than 30 days after the submission of such application.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall provide the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives with a briefing on the outcome of the assessment required by subsection (a).

##### SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act may be construed to alter the policy of the United States toward Taiwan as specified in the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.).

##### SEC. 5. SUNSET.

This Act shall cease to have effect on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that 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. 1744), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### BILLION DOLLAR BOONDOGGLE ACT OF 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 254, S. 766.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 766) to require an annual report of taxpayer-funded projects that are over budget and behind schedule.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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 bill (S. 766) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 766

*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 "Billion Dollar Boondoggle Act of 2025".

##### SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "covered agency" means—

(A) an Executive agency, as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) an independent regulatory agency, as defined in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code;

(2) the term "covered project" means a project funded by a covered agency—

(A) that is more than 5 years behind schedule, as measured against the original expected date for completion; or

(B) for which the amount spent on the project is not less than \$1,000,000,000 more than the original cost estimate for the project;

(3) the term "Director" means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; and

(4) the term "project" means a major acquisition, a major defense acquisition program (as defined in section 4201 of title 10, United States Code), a procurement, a construction project, a remediation or clean-up effort, or any other time-limited endeavor, that is not funded through direct spending (as defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(e))).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue guidance requiring covered agencies to, on an annual basis, submit to the Director information relating to each covered project of the covered agency, which shall include—

(A) a brief description of the covered project, including—

- (i) the purpose of the covered project;
- (ii) each location in which the covered project is carried out;
- (iii) the contract or award number of the covered project, where applicable;
- (iv) the year in which the covered project was initiated;
- (v) the Federal share of the total cost of the covered project; and
- (vi) each primary contractor, subcontractor, grant recipient, and subgrantee recipient of the covered project;

(B) an explanation of any change to the original scope of the covered project, including by the addition or narrowing of the initial requirements of the covered project;

(C) the original expected date for completion of the covered project;

(D) the current expected date for completion of the covered project;

(E) the original cost estimate for the covered project, as adjusted to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics;

(F) the current cost estimate for the covered project, as adjusted to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics;

(G) an explanation for a delay in completion or an increase in the original cost estimate for the covered project, including, where applicable, any impact of insufficient or delayed appropriations; and

(H) the amount of and rationale for any award, incentive fee, or other type of bonus, if any, awarded for the covered project.

(2) **REPORT.**—The Director shall submit to Congress and post on the website of the Office of Management and Budget an annual report containing the information submitted under paragraph (1) for the relevant year.

#### DISASTER RELATED EXTENSION OF DEADLINES ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1491 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1491) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the postponement of certain deadlines by reason of disasters applicable to the limitation on credit or refund, and to take postponements into account for purposes of sending collection notices.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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 bill (H.R. 1491) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### ACQUISITION REFORM AND COST ASSESSMENT ACT OF 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 277, S. 1591.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1591), to amend title 38, United States Code, to reorganize the acquisition structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to establish the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation in the Department, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Acquisition Reform and Cost Assessment Act of 2025” or the “ARCA Act of 2025”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Department of Veterans Affairs acquisition organization.
- Sec. 3. Department of Veterans Affairs major acquisition program managers.
- Sec. 4. Department of Veterans Affairs acquisition and procurement reorganization matters.
- Sec. 5. Independent verification and validation of major acquisition programs of Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 6. Department of Veterans Affairs cost assessment and program evaluation.
- Sec. 7. Improvements to hiring of entry-level acquisition positions in Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 8. Independent analysis of acquisition process of Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 9. Requirements development process.
- Sec. 10. Conforming amendments.
- Sec. 11. Clerical amendments.

##### SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ACQUISITION ORGANIZATION.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—Chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subchapter VI the following new subchapter:

##### “Subchapter VII—Acquisition Organization, Cost Assessment, and Program Evaluation “SEC. 8181. DEFINITION OF MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.

“In this subchapter, the term ‘major acquisition program’ means a program of the Department to acquire services, supplies, technology, systems, or a combination thereof, with an estimated total program cost, estimated by the Secretary, that exceeds—

“(1) \$1,000,000,000 (adjusted pursuant to section 1908 of title 41) for the total life cycle cost of the program; or

“(2) \$200,000,000 (adjusted pursuant to section 1908 of title 41) annually.”

(b) **ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ACQUISITION.**—Section 308 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “seven” and inserting “eight”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(10), by striking “Procurement functions” and inserting “Acquisition functions”.

(c) **ACQUISITION ORGANIZATION.**—Subchapter VI of chapter 81 of such title, as added by subsection (a), is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

##### “SEC. 8182. ACQUISITION ORGANIZATION.

“(a) **ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ACQUISITION; CHIEF ACQUISITION OFFICER.**—(1) The Secretary

shall designate one of the Assistant Secretaries specified in subsection (a)(1) of section 308 of this title as the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Acquisition, who shall focus solely on the administration of functions specified in subsection (b)(10) of such section.

“(2) Pursuant to section 1702(a) of title 41, the Secretary shall designate the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Acquisition as the Chief Acquisition Officer of the Department.

“(b) **OFFICE OF ACQUISITION.**—(1) There is in the Department an Office of Acquisition.

“(2) The head of the Office of Acquisition shall be the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Acquisition designated pursuant to subsection (a).

“(3) The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that major acquisition program offices of the Department align under the Office of Acquisition and report directly to the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Acquisition.

“(4) The budget of the Office of Acquisition, including budgets for major acquisition programs, shall be established in the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget of the Department (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31).

“(c) **DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LOGISTICS.**—(1) Pursuant to section 308(d) of this title, the Secretary shall appoint a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Logistics, who shall report to the Assistant Secretary for Acquisition.

“(2) The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Logistics shall be responsible for administration of logistics and supply chain operations of the Department.

“(d) **DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PROCUREMENT.**—(1) Pursuant to section 308(d) of this title, the Secretary shall appoint a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Procurement, who shall report to the Assistant Secretary for Acquisition.

“(2) The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Procurement shall be responsible for all procurement and contracting organizations of the Department.

“(e) **DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ACQUISITION, PROGRAM MANAGEMENT, AND PERFORMANCE.**—(1) Pursuant to section 308(d) of this title, the Secretary shall appoint a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Acquisition, Program Management, and Performance, who shall report to the Assistant Secretary for Acquisition.

“(2) The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, Program Management, and Performance shall be responsible for the following:

“(A) Lifecycle management.

“(B) Requirements planning.

“(C) Programming and budgeting.

“(D) Policy.

“(E) Performance standards.

“(F) Governance.

“(G) Enhancing the capabilities of the acquisition workforce.

“(f) **PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.**—(1) The Assistant Secretary for Acquisition shall appoint no fewer than four Program Executive Officers, each responsible for overseeing major acquisition programs in one of the following areas:

“(A) Medical.

“(B) Information technology.

“(C) Professional services.

“(D) Other areas not included in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

“(2) Each Program Executive Officer shall report directly to the Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and shall supervise the managers of major acquisition programs within their respective area, as appointed under section 8183 of this title.

“(3) Each Program Executive Officer shall be—

“(A) certified in project management at level three by—