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No. 53

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 12 p.m.

Senate

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

The Senate met at 12:01 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON HUSTED, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, we know You are mighty and we are weak, but we take heart because Your power makes mountains tremble. As our Senators rely on Your strength for this day, fill them with renewed faith, focus, and love.

Lord, give them the security, serenity, and solace they need to face today's challenges and to glorify You in their thoughts, words, and deeds. Fill them with the conviction that You will provide them with supernatural strength, vision, and guidance.

And, Lord, we pray for peace in our Nation and world.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 22, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON HUSTED, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. HUSTED thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SAFEGUARD AMERICAN VOTER ELIGIBILITY ACT—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message with respect to S. 1383, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany S. 1383, a bill to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Thune motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill.

Thune motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with Thune (for Schmitt) amendment No. 4420 (to the House amendment to the bill), in the nature of a substitute.

Thune (for Tuberville-Blackburn) amendment No. 4421 (to amendment No. 4420), to protect women and girls in athletics.

Thune motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Rules and Administration, with instructions, Thune amendment No. 4422, to change the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 4423 (to the instructions (amendment No. 4422), of a perfecting nature.

Thune amendment No. 4424 (to amendment No. 4423), of a perfecting nature.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 311, H.R. 7147.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 311, H.R. 7147, a bill making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S1495

SAVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it is rare for the Senate to be in session on a Sunday. Needless to say, the fact that we are here today tells you that what we are doing is important work; and that is the SAVE America Act. The core of the SAVE America Act is securing American elections, and a big way the bill accomplishes that is with two commonsense policies: requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote and requiring a photo ID when you go to cast a ballot.

Polls show that both measures have support from a vast majority of the American public. In fact, one poll showed that most Americans think you already—already—have to prove you are a citizen in order to register to vote.

Proof of citizenship is a requirement when you apply for government benefits. Proof of citizenship or legal status is required when you go to join the military. And every job in this country requires new hires to fill out a form I-9, proving that they are a citizen or otherwise eligible to work in this country.

If we expect this of Americans in other aspects of their lives, why shouldn't we expect it when Americans go to register to vote? It is just common sense. But under current law, you don't need to prove you are actually eligible to vote when you register.

State efforts to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote have been challenged in court, and courts have said that States cannot go beyond the requirements of the standard Federal voter registration form created by the 1993 National Voter Registration Act, a form that does not—does not—require voters to prove that they are American citizens. The SAVE America Act would fix that by requiring that individuals provide proof of citizenship when they register to vote.

When it comes to showing photo ID at the polls, not only do most Americans support it; 36 States already require it—red States, blue States, swing States. And I suspect that one of the reasons requiring a photo ID seems so common sense to Americans is because showing a photo ID is something the American people have to do for a whole host of other things in their daily lives.

If you drive a car, you need to have a license with you. If you do an early pickup at your kid's school, you need to show a photo ID. If you want to get a library card, you need a photo ID. And, as I pointed out the other day, Washington, DC, requires a photo ID to use a city recreation center. But you can vote—you can vote in DC—perhaps even in that same rec center that requires an ID to play basketball, without showing an ID. That doesn't make any sense.

Republicans aren't asking for much here. We are just asking to make our elections as secure as the local rec center.

Now, while Democrats have long acted as if requiring a photo ID is some

sort of intolerable burden to place on voters, since the SAVE America Act debate began, they have spent a lot of time hedging on this issue. In fact, on Tuesday, Leader SCHUMER announced that Democrats now support voter ID.

And then, on Thursday, the junior Republican Senator from Ohio—the current Presiding Officer and a former chief election official in his State—offered a bill to require photo ID to vote. That is all it would have done, require a photo ID when you go to the polls—driver's license, military ID, Tribal ID, passport. And Democrats—Democrats—blocked it. And they more than blocked it. Their response was to offer a bill that included, if you can believe this, a nationwide ban on voter ID for absentee ballots.

That is right. Democrats, who now claim to support voter ID, proposed a nationwide ban on voter ID requirements—requirements that already exist in a number of States, including my State of South Dakota.

Well, if that is Democrats supporting voter ID, I would hate to see what them opposing it would look like.

There will be other opportunities in this debate for Democrats to support commonsense voter integrity measures, including—including—voter ID, and every Democrat will be put on the record for the American people to see. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FIGHTING FOREIGN ILLEGAL SEAFOOD HARVESTS ACT OF 2025

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 313, S. 688.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 688) to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing at its sources globally.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be inserted is printed in italic.)

S. 688

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 "Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025" or the "FISH Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—Unless otherwise provided, the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

(2) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—The term "beneficial owner" means, with respect to a vessel, a person that, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

(A) exercises substantial control over the vessel; or

(B) owns not less than 50 percent of the ownership interests in the vessel.

(3) FISH.—The term "fish" means finfish, crustaceans, and mollusks.

(4) FORCED LABOR.—The term "forced labor" has the meaning given that term in section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).

(5) IUU FISHING.—The term "IUU fishing" means activities described as illegal fishing, unreported fishing, or unregulated fishing in paragraph 3 of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, adopted at the 24th Session of the Committee on Fisheries in Rome on March 2, 2001.

(6) REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.—The terms "regional fisheries management organization" and "RFMO" have the meaning given the terms in section 303 of the Port State Measures Agreement Act of 2015 (16 U.S.C. 7402).

(7) SEAFOOD.—The term "seafood" means fish, shellfish, processed fish, fish meal, shellfish products, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

(8) SECRETARY.—Unless otherwise provided, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to partner, consult, and coordinate with foreign governments (at the national and subnational levels), civil society, international organizations, international financial institutions, subnational coastal communities, commercial and recreational fishing industry leaders, communities that engage in artisanal or subsistence fishing, fishers, and the private sector, in a concerted effort—

(1) to continue the broad effort across the Federal Government to counter IUU fishing, including any potential links to forced labor, human trafficking, and other threats to maritime security, as outlined in sections 3533 and 3534 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8002 and 8003); and

(2) to, additionally—

(A) prioritize efforts to prevent IUU fishing at its sources; and

(B) support continued implementation of the Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries agreement, as well as joint research and follow-on actions that ensure sustainability of fish stocks in Arctic international waters.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF A BLACK LIST (IUU VESSEL LIST).

Section 608 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the following:

"(c) BLACK LIST (IUU VESSEL LIST).—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Secretary of Labor, shall develop, maintain, and make public a list of foreign vessels, foreign fleets, and beneficial