

Assistance, and Program Management Improvements Needed" (GAO-24-105549), published on September 27, 2024.

Mr. MORENO. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Gillibrand substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and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The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 6764), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Officer John Barnes and Chief Michael Ansbro Public Safety Officers' Benefit Program Expansion Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1205 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10285) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(2)(E), by inserting "including whether the delay is due to the inaction of the claimant or an agency from which information is required" after "basis for delay"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(f) NOTICE AND INTERIM BENEFITS.—

"(1) NOTICE OF MISSING INFORMATION.—Not later than 90 calendar days after receiving a claim filed under this subpart, the Bureau shall notify the claimant or the relevant agency of any missing information required to process the claim.

"(2) NOTICE OF DETERMINATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 calendar days after receiving all information required to process the claim, the Bureau shall inform the claimant of the Bureau's final, appealable determination as to the claimant's benefit eligibility.

"(B) INTERIM BENEFITS AS NOTICE.—Provision of interim benefits under section 1201(c) shall be deemed to be notice under subparagraph (A).

"(3) INTERIM BENEFITS.—

"(A) ENTITLEMENT.—If the Bureau fails to inform a claimant of the Bureau's determination on or before the date that is 270 calendar days after receiving all information required to process the claim, the Bureau shall issue a single interim benefit payment with respect to the claim, payable only to—

"(i) a claimant whose status as an eligible beneficiary is undisputed; or

"(ii) if beneficiary status remains unresolved, an escrow or fiduciary account, pending final determination under section 1201.

"(B) RESCISSION OR REPAYMENT.—Any interim benefits paid under this subsection—

"(i) shall be credited against any final benefit determination made under section 1201;

"(ii) shall not be subject to recoupment or affirmative repayment by the Bureau, except in cases of fraud or material misrepresentation; and

"(iii) shall not be construed to create an entitlement to benefits if the claimant or decedent is determined to be ineligible under this part.

"(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to—

"(A) limit the Bureau's authority to deny a claim for failure to meet statutory eligibility requirements;

"(B) alter the determination of eligible beneficiaries under section 1201; or

"(C) require payment of interim benefits to multiple claimants if the statute authorizes payment to only 1 or more mutually exclusive beneficiaries.

"(g) OUTREACH.—The Bureau shall—

"(1) conduct outreach efforts on an ongoing basis to ensure that public safety officers and underserved public agencies are aware of the program under this part, including outreach efforts for disabled public safety officers; and

"(2) include in the outreach efforts under paragraph (1) regular communications with national public safety organizations, public safety agencies, and organizations supporting disabled public safety officers and the families of fallen officers.

"(h) SUMMARY OF BACKLOGGED CLAIMS.—Not later than 30 days after publishing the report required under subsection (e)(2), the Bureau shall submit a summary of the information required to be reported under subsection (e)(2)(E) to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

"(i) AUDIT OF BACKLOGGED CLAIMS.—On an annual basis, the Comptroller General shall conduct an audit of any pending claims under this part that were submitted to the Bureau more than 1 year before the date on which the audit is commenced, to identify programmatic challenges to the timely processing of death, disability, and educational assistance claims. As part of the audit, the Comptroller General shall also review—

"(1) where the claim is in the determination process;

"(2) the reasons for delay, including any processes, such as legal review, that prevent timely processing of claims;

"(3) whether the agency has used its subpoena authority for the claims;

"(4) the frequency of outreach to the claimant and efforts to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of outreach and claims assistance efforts;

"(5) the efforts of the Bureau of Justice Assistance to implement a claims processing manual to ensure consistency across staff in determining claims; and

"(6) efforts to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of outreach and claims assistance efforts."

(b) SUBPOENA REQUIREMENT.—Section 1206(b) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10288(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) with respect to information or documentation in the possession of a public agency that the Bureau has determined is necessary to adjudicate the claim that the public agency has failed to provide by the date that is 30 days after the date of the Bureau's or the claimant's request to provide the information or documentation, shall issue a subpoena to the public agency to obtain the information or documentation, unless the Bureau has approved an extension not exceeding 60 days."

(c) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (4)(B)(ii), by striking "parapalegic" and inserting "paralegic";

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through (14) as paragraphs (9) through (15), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

"(8) 'gainful work' means gainful work activity, as defined in section 32.23 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulation;"

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.—Section 402(l)(4)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "(42 U.S.C. 3796b(9)(A))".

(B) TITLE 28.—Section 1863(b)(5)(B) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking "section 1203(6)" and inserting "section 1204".

SEC. 3. EXPEDITED PAYMENT FOR VCF OR WTCHP DETERMINATIONS.

Section 1205(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10285(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(4) In making determinations under section 1201(a), the Bureau shall, absent clear and convincing evidence to the contrary, as determined by the Bureau, approve any claim if the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note; Public Law 107-42) (commonly referred to as the 'VCF') or the World Trade Center Health Program under title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300mm et seq.) provides a certification of facts that—

"(A) the claim is eligible for death benefits under the Victim Compensation Fund; or

"(B) the cause of claimant's death is a World Trade Center Health Program-related condition."

SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN GAO RECOMMENDATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall ensure that the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance implements the recommendations provided in the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled "Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program: Transparency, Claims Assistance, and Program Management Improvements Needed" (GAO-24-105549), published on September 27, 2024.

The bill (S. 3897), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DIVERSITY JURISDICTION INFLATION ADJUSTMENT ACT

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 4850 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 (S. 4850) to amend title 28, United States Code, to adjust thresholds relating to jurisdiction for inflation.

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

Mr. MORENO. 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. 4850) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4850

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 “Diversity Jurisdiction Inflation Adjustment Act”.

SEC. 2. INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS.

Section 1332 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “of \$75,000” and inserting “described in subsection (b)”; and

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b)(1) The matter in controversy described in this subsection is not less than \$150,000, as adjusted under paragraph (2), exclusive of interest and costs.

“(2)(A) In this paragraph—

“(i) the term ‘appropriate year’ means the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the adjustment under paragraph (1) is to take effect; and

“(ii) the term ‘Consumer Price Index’ means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor.

“(B) Effective on January 1, 2030, and January 1 of each tenth year thereafter, the dollar amount then in effect as the minimum amount in controversy applicable under paragraph (1) shall be adjusted by an amount, rounded to the nearest \$25,000 (or, if midway between multiples, to the next higher multiple of \$25,000) which reflects the change in the Consumer Price Index for the month of September of the appropriate year, over the Consumer Price Index for—

“(i) in the case of the initial adjustment, the month of September 2025; and

“(ii) in the case of each subsequent adjustment, September of the year preceding the last adjustment.

“(C) The Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall determine the amount of each adjustment under paragraph (1) and, not later than November 15 of the appropriate year, shall submit for publication in the Federal Register the amount (and the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index that is the basis for the amount) and the new minimum amount in controversy to take effect on January 1 of the succeeding calendar year.

“(3) Except when express provision therefor is otherwise made in a statute of the United States, where the plaintiff who files the case originally in the Federal courts is finally adjudged to be entitled to recover less than the sum or value required under paragraph (1) without regard to any setoff or counterclaim to which the defendant may be adjudged to be entitled, and exclusive of interest and costs, the district court may deny costs to the plaintiff and, in addition, may impose costs on the plaintiff.”.

COMMON CENTS ACT

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1525 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 (S. 1525) to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to stop minting the penny, to require cash transactions to be rounded up or down to the nearest 5 cents, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MORENO. I ask unanimous consent that the Lummis substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and 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 amendment (No. 6766) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The bill (S. 1525), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXPANDING THE SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN TRADE

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 2677 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 (S. 2677) to expand the sharing of information with respect to suspected violations of intellectual property rights in trade.

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

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Grassley substitute amendment at the desk be considered and 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 amendment (No. 6767) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

Section 628A of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1628a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “suspects” and inserting “has a reasonable suspicion”; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “, packing materials, containers,” after “its packaging” the first place it appears;

(ii) by striking “and its packaging and labels” after “images of the merchandise” and inserting “, its packaging, packing materials, containers, and labels”; and

(iii) by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) may provide to the person nonpublic information about the merchandise that was generated by an online marketplace or other similar market platform, express consignee operator, freight forwarder, or any other entity that plays a role in the sale or importation of merchandise, or the facilitation thereof, into the United States that has been provided to, shared with, or obtained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

“(4) in the case of the provision of nonpublic information described in paragraph (3), shall provide to the person notification of the information transmitted, in accordance with such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) any other party with an interest in the merchandise, as determined appropriate by the Commissioner.”.

The bill (S. 2677), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MEMORIAL EXTENSION ACT

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2196 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. 2196) to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.

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

Mr. MORENO. 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. 2196) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

REMOVING RESTRICTIONS FROM A PARCEL OF LAND IN PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1276 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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