

(Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3917, a bill to prohibit the issuance of commercial driver's licenses to individuals who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States or holders of certain work visas, and for other purposes.

S. J. RES. 103

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. J. Res. 103, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to "Reproductive Health Services".

S. RES. 624

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 624, a resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of March 2 through March 6, 2026, as "National Social and Emotional Learning Week" to recognize the critical role social and emotional learning plays in supporting the academic success and overall well-being of students, educators, and families.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 3965. A bill to require the establishment and use of short form applications for rural communities applying for economic development grant programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. 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. 3965

*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 "EDA Short Form Application Act".

#### SEC. 2. SHORT FORM APPLICATIONS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term "Assistant Secretary" means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

(2) RURAL COMMUNITY.—The term "rural community" means an incorporated municipality, Tribal area, or territory—

(A) with a population of not more than 10,000 individuals, as determined by the Bureau of the Census in the most recent decennial census; or

(B) that, as determined by the Assistant Secretary, is not located in a metropolitan statistical area, as designated by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(b) SHORT FORM APPLICATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Assistant Secretary shall establish a short form application for rural communities that may be used by applicants in rural communities for any grant program administered by the Economic Development Administration.

(c) RURAL STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In establishing a short form application under subsection (b), the Assistant Secretary shall solicit input from a representative group of stakeholders in rural communities on ways to improve the application process for grants from the Economic Development Administration, including—

(1) the length of the applications;

(2) the information and documentation required or requested to be submitted as part of the applications;

(3) the possibility of standardizing base materials, such as budget templates, forms, and required attachments, across grant programs administered by the Economic Development Administration;

(4) the possibility of reducing repetitive sections of the applications that ask for information already provided to the Federal Government, such as information provided through SAM.gov, the Bureau of the Census, or a comprehensive economic development strategy (as defined in section 3 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3122));

(5) the degree of applicability to rural communities of questions in the applications and information and documentation described in paragraph (2); and

(6) any other considerations the Assistant Secretary determines to be necessary for the establishment of the short form application.

(d) TRANSPARENCY.—In carrying out this section, the Assistant Secretary shall make publicly available—

(1) sample successful applications, with personal and sensitive information redacted;

(2) criteria decision guides that explain how applications are reviewed and rated; and

(3) standardized guidance for rural communities to use in applying for grants from the Economic Development Administration.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4303. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4304. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4305. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4303. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ WITHDRAWALS FOR FIRST-TIME HOME PURCHASES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(m) DISTRIBUTIONS FOR FIRST-TIME HOME PURCHASES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Gross income does not include any payment or distribution received by an individual from a plan to the extent such payment or distribution is used by the individual before the close of the 120th day after the day on which such payment or distribution is received to pay qualified acquisition costs with respect to a principal residence of a first-time homebuyer who is such individual, the spouse of such individual, or any child, grandchild, or ancestor of such individual or the individual's spouse.

"(2) DISTRIBUTIONS MUST OTHERWISE BE INCLUDIBLE.—Rules similar to the rules of subsection (1)(3) shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

"(3) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this subsection—

"(A) QUALIFIED ACQUISITION COSTS.—The term 'qualified acquisition costs' means the costs of acquiring, constructing, or reconstructing a residence. Such term includes any usual or reasonable settlement, financing, or other closing costs.

"(B) FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER.—The term 'first-time homebuyer' means any individual if such individual (and if married, such individual's spouse) had no present ownership interest in a principal residence at any time prior to the date of acquisition of the principal residence to which this paragraph applies.

"(C) PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE.—The term 'principal residence' has the same meaning as when used in section 121.

"(D) DATE OF ACQUISITION.—The term 'date of acquisition' means the date—

"(i) on which a binding contract to acquire the principal residence to which paragraph (1) applies is entered into, or

"(ii) on which construction or reconstruction of such a principal residence is commenced.

"(E) SPECIAL RULE WHERE DELAY IN ACQUISITION.—If any distribution from a plan fails to meet the requirements of paragraph (1) solely by reason of a delay or cancellation of the purchase or construction of the residence, the amount of the distribution may be contributed to the plan and, if so contributed, the distribution shall be treated as not having been made.

"(F) OTHER SPECIAL RULES.—Rules similar to the rules of subsection (1)(5) shall apply.

"(4) COORDINATION WITH SECTION 401.—A plan shall not be treated as violating the requirements of section 401, or as engaging in a prohibited transaction for purposes of section 503(b), merely because it allows for a distribution described in paragraph (1)."

(b) QUALIFIED CASH OR DEFERRED ARRANGEMENTS.—Clause (i) of section 401(k)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "or" at the end of subclause (VI), by adding "or" at the end of subclause (VII), and by adding at the end the following new subclause:

"(VIII) as provided in section 402(m)."

(c) ANNUITIES.—Subsection (a) of section 403 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(7) SPECIAL RULE FOR DISTRIBUTIONS FOR FIRST-TIME HOME PURCHASES.—To the extent provided in section 402(m), paragraph (1) shall not apply to the amount distributed under the contract which is otherwise includible in gross income under this subsection."

(d) GOVERNMENTAL ANNUITIES.—Subsection (b) of section 403 of the Internal Revenue

Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(18) SPECIAL RULE FOR DISTRIBUTIONS FOR FIRST-TIME HOME PURCHASES.—To the extent provided in section 402(m), paragraph (1) shall not apply to the amount distributed under the contract which is otherwise includible in gross income under this subsection.”

(e) INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS.—Subsection (d) of section 408 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) DISTRIBUTIONS FOR FIRST-TIME HOME PURCHASES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Gross income does not include any payment or distribution received by an individual from an individual retirement plan (other than a plan described in subsection (k) or (p)) to the extent such payment or distribution is used by the individual before the close of the 120th day after the day on which such payment or distribution is received to pay qualified acquisition costs with respect to a principal residence of a first-time homebuyer who is such individual, the spouse of such individual, or any child, grandchild, or ancestor of such individual or the individual's spouse.

“(B) DISTRIBUTIONS MUST OTHERWISE BE INCLUDIBLE.—Rules similar to the rules of paragraph (8)(C) shall apply for purposes of this paragraph.

“(C) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) QUALIFIED ACQUISITION COSTS.—The term ‘qualified acquisition costs’ means the costs of acquiring, constructing, or reconstructing a residence. Such term includes any usual or reasonable settlement, financing, or other closing costs.

“(ii) FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER.—The term ‘first-time homebuyer’ means any individual if such individual (and if married, such individual's spouse) had no present ownership interest in a principal residence at any time prior to the date of acquisition of the principal residence to which this paragraph applies.

“(iii) PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE.—The term ‘principal residence’ has the same meaning as when used in section 121.

“(iv) DATE OF ACQUISITION.—The term ‘date of acquisition’ means the date—

“(I) on which a binding contract to acquire the principal residence to which subparagraph (A) applies is entered into, or

“(II) on which construction or reconstruction of such a principal residence is commenced.

“(v) SPECIAL RULE WHERE DELAY IN ACQUISITION.—If any distribution from any individual retirement plan fails to meet the requirements of subparagraph (A) solely by reason of a delay or cancellation of the purchase or construction of the residence, the amount of the distribution may be contributed to an individual retirement plan as provided in paragraph (3)(A)(i) (determined by substituting ‘120th day’ for ‘60th day’ in such section), except that—

“(I) paragraph (3)(B) shall not be applied to such contribution, and

“(II) such amount shall not be taken into account in determining whether paragraph (3)(B) applies to any other amount.

“(vi) OTHER SPECIAL RULES.—Rules similar to the rules of paragraph (8)(D) and section 402(l)(5)(A) shall apply.”

(f) DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLANS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS.—Subsection (a) of section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR DISTRIBUTIONS FOR FIRST-TIME HOME PURCHASES.—To the extent provided in section 402(m), paragraph (1)

shall not apply to the amount distributed under the contract which is otherwise includible in gross income under this subsection.”

(g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Subparagraph (F) of section 72(t)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) by inserting “, or to which section 402(m), 401(k)(2)(B)(i)(VIII), 403(a)(7), 403(b)(18), 408(d)(10), or 457(a)(4) applies” before the period at the end of the first sentence, and

(B) by striking “under the preceding sentence” and inserting “as qualified first-time homebuyer distributions”.

(2) Subparagraph (A) of section 72(t)(8) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following: “Such term does not include any payment or distribution to which section 402(m), 401(k)(2)(B)(i)(VIII), 403(a)(7), 403(b)(18), 408(d)(10), or 457(a)(4) applies.”

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to payments and distributions received in taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SA 4304.** Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. —. OVERSIGHT OF LANDLORD COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS.**

Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(ee) HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER LANDLORD DATABASE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall, in cooperation with all public housing agencies, create a database of owners of properties receiving tenant-based assistance, which shall include—

“(A) a comprehensive list of all properties owned by each owner that are receiving or have previously received tenant-based assistance;

“(B) for each property listed under subparagraph (A), the identity of any private individual or entity that has the legal right to lease or sublease dwelling units within the property;

“(C) a comprehensive list of all actions taken by the Secretary and any public housing agency against an owner for violations of the terms of a housing assistance payments contract related to the property or of the housing quality standards established under subsection (o)(8)(B);

“(D) a comprehensive list of all previous or ongoing litigation related to the programs authorized under subsection (o) between the owner and any public housing agency; and

“(E) a mechanism for accepting consumer complaints from tenants of properties receiving tenant-based assistance about the owners of those properties, through which consumers may submit complaints that shall include—

“(i) identifying information of the tenant, the owner, and the property; and

“(ii) a detailed description of the complaint of the tenant.

“(2) PUBLIC DISCLOSURES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall maintain and make available to the public a list, using information from the database established under paragraph (1), of all owners of properties receiving tenant-based assistance, which shall include—

“(i) the identity of any private individual or entity that has the legal right to lease or sublease dwelling units within each property;

“(ii) all actions described in paragraph (1)(C); and

“(iii) all litigation described in paragraph (1)(D).

“(B) PRIVACY.—Any information made available under subparagraph (A)—

“(i) shall be made available in a manner that protects the privacy of current and former tenants of the properties; and

“(ii) shall not include, and where appropriate shall redact, the addresses of the properties and dwelling units owned by the owners or other personally identifiable information of tenants.

“(3) REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) complete an initial review of each complaint submitted under paragraph (1)(E) not later than 60 days after the date of submission; and

“(B) if a complaint submitted under paragraph (1)(E) contains the information required under clauses (i) and (ii) of such paragraph (1)(E), make the complaint publicly available on the database established under paragraph (1).

“(4) PENALTY.—Any property owner who knowingly provides misleading or inconsistent information to the Secretary or public housing agencies, or to units of general local government or other entities approved by the Secretary to conduct inspections under subsection (o)(11), relating to the database established under paragraph (1) with the intent to undermine transparency or avoid sanction, shall be guilty of a violation of section 1012 of title 18, United States Code, and shall be prohibited thereafter from being awarded any contract by the Federal Government.

“(5) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

“(A) INVESTIGATIONS.—The Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development may investigate any suspected or alleged effort by an owner to circumvent the data collection needs identified by the Secretary to carry out this subsection by providing misleading or inconsistent information.

“(B) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall issue a report documenting obstacles to maintaining consistent records within the database established under paragraph (1), including—

“(i) deficiencies in information submissions by owners;

“(ii) inconsistent documentation by public housing agencies; and

“(iii) legal restructuring or renaming of ownership entities by owners with the intent to evade transparency.

“(6) AUDITS AND ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall—

“(A) audit the performance of public housing agencies with the requirements under this subsection; and

“(B) update the section 8 management assessment program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to consider compliance with the requirements under this subsection.”

**SA 4305.** Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . COMPETITION IN CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Credit Card Competition Act”.

(b) **COMPETITION IN CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 921 of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693o-2) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) **COMPETITION IN CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS.**—

“(A) **NO EXCLUSIVE NETWORK.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Credit Card Competition Act, the Board shall prescribe regulations providing that a covered card issuer or payment card network shall not directly or through any agent, processor, or licensed member of a payment card network, by contract, requirement, condition, penalty, technological specification, or otherwise, restrict the number of payment card networks on which an electronic credit transaction may be processed to—

“(I) 1 such network;

“(II) 2 or more such networks, if—

“(aa) each such network is owned, controlled, or otherwise operated by—

“(AA) affiliated persons; or

“(BB) networks affiliated with such issuer; or

“(bb) any such network is identified on the list established and updated under subparagraph (D); or

“(III) subject to clause (ii), the 2 such networks that hold the 2 largest market shares with respect to the number of credit cards issued in the United States by licensed members of such networks (and enabled to be processed through such networks), as determined by the Board on the date on which the Board prescribes the regulations.

“(ii) **DETERMINATIONS BY BOARD.**—

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—The Board, not later than 3 years after the date on which the regulations prescribed under clause (i) take effect, and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, shall determine whether the 2 networks identified under clause (i)(III) have changed, as compared with the most recent such determination by the Board.

“(II) **EFFECT OF DETERMINATION.**—If the Board, under subclause (I), determines that the 2 networks described in clause (i)(III) have changed (as compared with the most recent such determination by the Board), clause (i)(III) shall no longer have any force or effect.

“(B) **NO ROUTING RESTRICTIONS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Credit Card Competition Act, the Board shall prescribe regulations providing that a covered card issuer or payment card network shall not—

(i) directly or through any agent, processor, or licensed member of the network, by contract, requirement, condition, penalty, or otherwise—

(I) inhibit the ability of any person who accepts credit cards for payments to direct the routing of electronic credit transactions for processing over any payment card network that—

“(aa) may process such transactions; and

“(bb) is not on the list established and updated by the Board under subparagraph (D);

(II) require any person who accepts credit cards for payments to exclusively use, for transactions associated with a particular credit card, an authentication, tokenization,

or other security technology that cannot be used by all of the payment card networks that may process electronic credit transactions for that particular credit card; or

(III) inhibit the ability of another payment card network to handle or process electronic credit transactions using an authentication, tokenization, or other security technology for the processing of those electronic credit transactions; or

(ii) impose any penalty or disadvantage, financial or otherwise, on any person for—

(I) choosing to direct the routing of an electronic credit transaction over any payment card network on which the electronic credit transaction may be processed; or

(II) failing to ensure that a certain number, or aggregate dollar amount, of electronic credit transactions are handled by a particular payment card network.

(C) **APPLICABILITY.**—The regulations prescribed under subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall not apply to a credit card issued in a 3-party payment system model.

(D) **DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY RISKS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Credit Card Competition Act, the Board, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall prescribe regulations to establish a public list of any payment card network—

(I) the processing of electronic credit transactions by which is determined by the Board to pose a risk to the national security of the United States; or

(II) that is owned, operated, or sponsored by a foreign state entity.

(ii) **UPDATING OF LIST.**—Not less frequently than once every 2 years after the date on which the Board establishes the public list required under clause (i), the Board, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall update that list.

(E) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this paragraph—

(i) the terms ‘card issuer’ and ‘creditor’ have the meanings given the terms in section 103 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1602);

(ii) the term ‘covered card issuer’ means a card issuer that, together with the affiliates of the card issuer, has assets of more than \$100,000,000,000;

(iii) the term ‘credit card issued in a 3-party payment system model’ means a credit card issued by a card issuer that is—

(I) the payment card network with respect to the credit card; or

(II) under common ownership with the payment card network with respect to the credit card;

(iv) the term ‘electronic credit transaction’—

(I) means a transaction in which a person uses a credit card; and

(II) includes a transaction in which a person does not physically present a credit card for payment, including a transaction involving the entry of credit card information onto, or use of credit card information in conjunction with, a website interface or a mobile telephone application; and

(v) the term ‘licensed member’ includes, with respect to a payment card network—

(I) a creditor or card issuer that is authorized to issue credit cards bearing any logo of the payment card network; and

(II) any person, including any financial institution and any person that may be referred to as an ‘acquirer’, that is authorized to—

(aa) screen and accept any person into any program under which that person may accept, for payment for goods or services, a credit card bearing any logo of the payment card network;

“(bb) process transactions on behalf of any person who accepts credit cards for payments; and

“(cc) complete financial settlement of any transaction on behalf of a person who accepts credit cards for payments.”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), by inserting “, except that the Bureau shall not have authority to enforce the requirements of this section or any regulations prescribed by the Board under this section” after “section 918”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Each set of regulations prescribed by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System under paragraph (2) of section 921(b) of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693o-2(b)), as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Board prescribes the final version of that set of regulations.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in open and closed session during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON THE VETERANS’ AFFAIRS**

The Committee on the Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a joint hearing.

**MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3977**

Ms. ERNST. I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3977) to amend title 11, United States Code, to modify certain bankruptcy eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.