

revenue from timber sale contracts and certain payments made by counties to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior under good neighbor agreements, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1435. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1450. An act to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to modify the treatment of revenue from timber sale contracts and certain payments made by counties to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior under good neighbor agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on September 14, 2023, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled joint resolutions:

S.J. Res. 9. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment”.

S.J. Res. 24. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat”.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2126. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Guidance on Section 603 of the SECURE 2.0 Act with Respect to Catch-Up Contributions” (Notice 2023-62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2127. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Notice: Section 5000D Excise Tax on Sales of Designated Drugs; Reporting and Payment of the Tax” (Notice 2023-52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2128. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pur-

suant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Guidance on Requirements for Home Energy Audits for Purposes of the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit under Section 25C” (Notice 2023-59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2129. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Income Tax Consequences of Certain State Payments” (Notice 2023-56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2130. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program; Contract Year 2024 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage Program, Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program, Medicare Cost Plan Program, and Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly” (RIN0938-AU96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2131. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program and CHIP; Mandatory Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Core Set Reporting” (RIN0938-AU52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2132. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities; Updates to the Quality Reporting Program and Value-Based Purchasing Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2024” (RIN0938-AU96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2133. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Recapture of Certain Excess Employment Tax Credits under COVID-19 Legislation” (RIN1545-BQ08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2134. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program” (RIN1545-BQ81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2135. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revenue Procedure 2023-26: Fast-Track Processing of Certain Letter Rulings” (Rev. Proc. 2023-26) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2136. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revenue Procedure on the Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program” (Rev. Proc. 2023-27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2137. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant General Counsel (Treasury)/Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2138. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “FY 2020 Annual Report to Congress on the Child Support Program”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2139. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Large Residential Washers: Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Import Relief”; to the Committee on Finance.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-49. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California requesting the United States Congress to enact, and the President of the United States to sign, legislation that would repeal the Governmental Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision from the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Whereas, Two federal Social Security Administration laws, the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, passed by Congress more than 30 years ago, without statistical analysis, diminish or eliminate the fully earned Social Security benefits of large numbers of public service employees in California; and

Whereas, These provisions affect workers who have been employed in a government position that is not coordinated with the Social Security program, such as California public school teachers who have not been able to receive Social Security credits since 1965; and

Whereas, Most peace officers, including the California Highway Patrol, firefighters, and many other public servants working for cities and special districts are not covered by Social Security, making them subject to these provisions; and

Whereas, In California, more than 375,000 retirees have had their Social Security benefits diminished or completely eliminated by these laws; and

Whereas, Effective government requires highly qualified and motivated personnel, and California governmental agencies need to compete to recruit and retain outstanding employees, including hiring up to 19,700 teachers by the 2025-26 school year; and

Whereas, The recruitment and retention of qualified individuals reentering the workforce is impeded by these two provisions, which reduce or eliminate the Social Security retirement benefits either earned by

workers, themselves, or received through dependent status; and

Whereas, The Government Pension Offset severely cuts, and usually eliminates, all spousal and survivor benefits that were earned from what is deemed by the State of California to be community property income; and

Whereas, The Government Pension Offset requires that a recipient of benefits report any yearly cost-of-living increase in the recipient's public pension, so that the recipient's Social Security benefits may be reduced by two-thirds of that amount; and

Whereas, The Windfall Elimination Provision cuts earned Social Security benefits from work that is separate from the work for which the individual earned a pension from a governmental entity; and

Whereas, The Windfall Elimination Provision subverts the purpose of Social Security retirement benefits by eliminating the formula that reimburses low-income workers at a higher rate than high-income workers, causing severe hardships for those who have not had high-paying public service; and

Whereas, New public sector workers were not notified they would be subject to these unjust penalties until 2005, which means that thousands of workers had no notification of them until they applied for Social Security benefits; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature requests that the Congress of the United States enact legislation to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision from the Social Security Act, and further requests that President Joseph Biden sign that legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-50. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii urging the United States Congress to adopt national carbon fee and dividend legislation; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 125

Whereas, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres recently said, "Greenhouse gas emissions keep growing, global temperatures keep rising, and our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible. We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator"; and

Whereas, carbon dioxide is a major greenhouse gas and its concentration in the atmosphere has been increasing at progressively rapid rate for more than sixty years, as shown by measurements taken at observatories on Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, and now registers at more than four hundred twenty parts per million; which is fifty percent higher than before the Industrial Revolution; and

Whereas, many climate change impacts are anticipated for the Hawaiian Islands, including increases in ocean and air temperatures, sea level rise, droughts, severe weather patterns, ocean acidification, and more frequent and severe wildfires; and

Whereas, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stated in the most recent report of its mitigation working group that any pathway to limit warming to two degrees Celsius would have to "involve rapid and deep and in most cases immediate green-

house gas emissions reductions in all sectors"; and

Whereas, the United States needs powerful new policies to meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals established in the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement; and

Whereas, imposing a tax on the burning of fossil fuels and returning the revenues to households to spend as they see fit, a carbon-pricing policy commonly known as carbon fee and dividend, is an effective and equitable way to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, carbon fee and dividend is supported by more than thirty-six hundred economists, including twenty-eight Nobel Laureates and fifteen former chairs of the Council of Economic Advisers, who signed a statement that begins, "A carbon tax offers the most cost-effective lever to reduce carbon emissions at the scale and speed that is necessary" and the statement continues, "to maximize the fairness and political viability of a rising tax, all the revenue should be returned directly to American citizens through equal lump-sum rebates"; and

Whereas, a national carbon fee and dividend program can include border adjustments, such as carbon-content-based tariffs on products imported from countries without comparable carbon pricing and refunds to our exporters of carbon taxes paid, to maintain the competitiveness of United States businesses in global markets; and

Whereas, major trading partners of the United States like Canada and the European Union have adopted meaningful carbon taxes and are now considering carbon border adjustments to level the playing field by ensuring that imports are subject to the same carbon pricing as local goods; and

Whereas, a national carbon fee and dividend program can be implemented quickly and efficiently, and respond to the urgency of the climate crises, because the federal government already has in place mechanisms, such as the Internal Revenue Service, needed to implement and enforce the tax, and already collects taxes from fossil fuel producers and importers; and

Whereas, a national carbon fee and dividend program would make the United States a leader in mitigating climate change and the advancing of clean energy technologies in the 21st century, and would incentivize other countries to enact similar carbon pricing policies, thereby reducing global greenhouse gas emissions without the need for complex international agreements; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, that the United States Congress is urged to pass national carbon fee and dividend legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice-President of the United States, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

POM-51. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging and requesting the President of the United States to reconsider the signed agreement that facilitates growth of certain aquaculture exports from Ecuador to the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

Whereas, on August 18, 2022, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) signed a confidentiality commitment with Ecuador's vice minister of Aquaculture and Fisheries (VAP) within the Ministry of Pro-

duction, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries of the Republic of Ecuador; and

Whereas, the purpose of the confidentiality commitment or agreement is to allow for the exchange of confidential information, including inspection of records, draft rulemaking and guidance, and other nonpublic documents; and

Whereas, the agreement with Ecuador is designed to ensure the safety of shrimp imported to the United States and offers guarantees for aquaculture exports to the United States; and

Whereas, according to an article from the seafood industry's trade publication Seafood Source, in the first six months of 2022, Ecuador exported at least one billion one hundred million pounds of shrimp abroad at that time, with the United States being its second-biggest market; and

Whereas, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in 2020, the United States imported approximately one billion six hundred million pounds of shrimp, an increase of up to seven and one half percent from 2019; and

Whereas, in 2022, Ecuador was the second leading source of shrimp exports to the United States, after India, exporting four hundred forty-one million pounds of shrimp to the United States, according to Seafood Source; and

Whereas, according to the 2021-2022 annual report from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, shrimp are the state's most valuable fishery; and

Whereas, the average real dockside value of Louisiana shrimp fell from one dollar and ninety-three cents per pound in 2000 to one dollar and three cents per pound in 2018; and

Whereas, this unfair competition allows foreign competitors to flood the United States market, devastating local industries. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the president of the United States to reconsider an agreement signed with Ecuador that facilitates growth of certain aquaculture exports from Ecuador to the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the White House and to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-52. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass legislation allowing taxpayers to establish tax-advantaged catastrophe savings accounts for disaster-related expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

Whereas, three U.S. states—Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina—currently provide within their respective tax codes for catastrophe savings accounts; and

Whereas, these accounts are regular savings or money market accounts that taxpayers designate with their financial institutions as catastrophe savings accounts and to which limited amounts of tax-deductible contributions may be made; and

Whereas, the laws of the three states that provide for such accounts all stipulate that a taxpayer may establish only one catastrophe savings account and shall specify that the purpose of the account is to cover the amount of insurance deductibles and other uninsured portions of risks of loss from floods, hurricanes, or other catastrophic windstorm events; and

Whereas, funds may be withdrawn from these accounts tax-free if used to pay disaster-related expenses defined in law as

“qualified catastrophe expenses”; if funds are withdrawn from these accounts for purposes other than paying qualified catastrophe expenses, then the amounts withdrawn are taxed as income; and

Whereas, the function of catastrophe savings accounts with respect to disaster-related expenses is similar to that of health savings accounts, long established in the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 223), for health-related expenses; and

Whereas, with the frequency and destructive force of weather-related disasters increasing nationwide, the need for some form of catastrophe or emergency savings account program for all Americans has become more pronounced; and

Whereas, legislation providing exclusively for the type of savings account discussed in this Resolution was introduced in the One Hundred Fifteenth United States Congress (H.R. 2818) and legislation including a catastrophe savings account component has been introduced in the current congress (One Hundred Eighteenth United States Congress, H.R. 312); Therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass legislation allowing taxpayers to establish tax-advantaged catastrophe savings accounts for disaster-related expenses; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-53. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to ban the import of shrimp and crawfish from outside the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 113

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to ban the import of shrimp and crawfish from outside the United States.

Whereas, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in 2019 the United States imported six billion pounds of edible seafood products, including one and one half billion pounds of shrimp, an increase of nearly six and one half million pounds more than the shrimp imported in 2018; and

Whereas, the 2019 shrimp imports alone, valued at six billion dollars, accounted for twenty-seven percent of the total value of imported seafood that year, which reached twenty-two billion dollars; and

Whereas, it is estimated that over half of the imported seafood consumed in the United States is from aquaculture, or seafood farming, rather than wild-caught; and

Whereas, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for the safety of all fish and fishery products entering the United States and sold in Louisiana; and

Whereas, in 2011 the FDA was only inspecting two percent of the seafood imported into the United States, the last year for which data regarding the percentage of imports inspected is available; and

Whereas, because imported seafood is not held to the same standards as domestic seafood, domestic fishing industries are put at a distinct and significant disadvantage commercially; and

Whereas, because labor costs are much lower overseas, peeled crawfish meat is much cheaper when imported, resulting in many entities purchasing from other countries instead of supporting the local market; and

Whereas, seafood imported from overseas is not always safe to consume; and

Whereas, according to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the average value of Louisiana shrimp fell from three dollars and eighty cents per pound in 1980 to one dollar fifty cents per pound in 2017; and

Whereas, unfair competition allows foreign competitors to flood the United States market with seafood harvested under intensive farming practices, while devastating local industries and coastal communities built around them; and

Whereas, domestically produced shrimp and crawfish offer the best option for the health and safety of United States consumers. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to ban the import of shrimp and crawfish from outside the United States. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-54. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to impose a quota or tariff on imported shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish and enact a buy plan for domestic shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish directly from domestic commercial fishermen; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 109

Whereas, the domestic fishing industry has faced severe hardships such as Hurricane Ida and other natural disasters, repeated openings of the Bonnet Carre Spillway, unfair trade practices, illegal chemicals, rising inflation, gas prices, and supply chain issues; and

Whereas, in October of 2022, United States Congressman Garret Graves announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) purchased up to twenty five million dollars of Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic wild caught shrimp; and

Whereas, Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act authorizes USDA to purchase domestic shrimp; and

Whereas, purchases such as this will help provide relief to Louisiana's shrimp industry; and

Whereas, Louisiana's seafood industry is the largest supplier in the country and the main economic driver in coastal areas; and

Whereas, more relief is necessary for the Louisiana seafood industry to compete with foreign importers; and

Whereas, strategies to ensure that domestic commercial fishermen are able to sell their products are necessary for the continued success of the Louisiana seafood industry; and

Whereas, plans to buy shrimp directly from domestic commercial shrimp fishermen are of vital importance to ensure the success of coastal communities that rely heavily on this industry; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to impose a quota or tariff on imported shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish and enact a buy plan for domestic shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish directly from domestic commercial fishermen; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America

and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 1648. A bill to facilitate access to the electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER:

S. 2827. A bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to establish minimum interregional transfer capabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms.

SINEMA, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2828. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to clarify that the prohibition on the use of Federal education funds for certain weapons does not apply to the use of such weapons in certain programs for activities such as archery, hunting, other shooting sports, or culinary arts; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr.

CRAPO, Mr. KING, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH,

Ms. SMITH, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs.

GILLIBRAND, Mr. MORAN, Ms. KLO-

BUCHAR, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. FEIN-

STEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY,

and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2829. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr.

BROWN):

S. 2830. A bill to update and improve vocational data and eligibility criteria for the Social Security Disability Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself,

Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2831. A bill to prohibit the non-consensual release of claims by States, municipalities, federally recognized Tribes, or the United States against non-debtors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr.

BRAUN):

S. 2832. A bill to amend the Head Start Act to permit some teachers in Early Head Start programs to teach while earning a child development associate credential; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr.

BOOKER):

S. 2833. A bill to prohibit targeted advertising by advertisers and advertising facilitators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2834. A bill to combat toxic indoor mold, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.