

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 6960) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COLORADO RIVER SALINITY CONTROL FIX ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7872, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7872) to amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 7872) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2024, AS "VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DAY"

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Con Res. 43.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 43) expressing support for the designation of September 29, 2024, as "Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day".

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be agreed to; that the Carper amendment at the desk to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 43) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3315), to the preamble, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

In the first whereas clause of the preamble, strike "and the Philippine Insurrection".

In the third whereas clause of the preamble, strike "has provided" and insert "and its predecessor organizations have provided".

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 43

Whereas, on September 29, 1899, the organization now known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was founded in Columbus, Ohio, in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War;

Whereas, on September 29, 2024, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will celebrate its 125th anniversary;

Whereas, since 1899, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its predecessor organizations have provided voluntary and unselfish service to the Armed Forces, veterans, and the United States by—

- (1) advocating for overarching benefits programs for veterans;
- (2) facilitating veterans transitioning back to civilian society;
- (3) serving the communities in which veterans live; and
- (4) taking a national leadership role on substantive issues important to veterans of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States provides an opportunity to recognize, honor, and pay tribute to the nearly 1,000,000 veterans of the Armed Forces represented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States who served in combat from World War II to the present day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

- (1) expresses support for the designation of September 29, 2024, as "Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day";
- (2) recognizes the historic significance of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and congratulates the organization on achieving that milestone;
- (3) commends the nearly 1,000,000 veterans who belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and thanks those veterans for their service to their fellow veterans and the United States; and
- (4) encourages the people of the United States to observe September 29, 2024, with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC RESTAURANT WEEK AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HISPANIC RESTAURANT OWNERS AND EMPLOYEES TO THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 836.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 836) recognizing Hispanic Restaurant Week and the contribu-

tions of Hispanic restaurant owners and employees to the restaurant industry.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 836) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 23, 2024, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 924, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 924) designating December 14, 2024, as "National Wreaths Across America Day".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 924) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RELATING TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE FRED R. HARRIS, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 925, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 925) relating to the death of the Honorable Fred R. Harris, former Senator for the State of Oklahoma.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 925) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 82

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 82) to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the notice of adoption of regulations from the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS AND TRANSMITTAL FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL

U.S. CONGRESS, OFFICE OF
CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS,
Washington, DC, December 10, 2024.

Hon. PATTY MURRAY,
President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate,
The United States Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM PRESIDENT: Section 207(d) of the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA), 2 U.S.C. 1316b(d), requires the Board of Directors of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (Board) to issue substantive regulations implementing section 207 of the CAA relating to the Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act of 2019.

Section 304(b)(3) of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. 1384(b)(3), requires that, with regard to substantive regulations under the CAA, after the Board has published a general notice of proposed rulemaking as required by subsection (b)(1) and received comments pursuant to subsection (b)(2), "the Board shall adopt regulations and shall transmit notice of such action together with a copy of such regulations to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate for publication in the Congressional Record on the first day on which both Houses are in session following such transmittal."

The Board has adopted the regulations in the Notice of Adoption of Substantive Regulations and Transmittal for Congressional Approval, which accompany this transmittal letter. The Board requests that the accom-

panying Notice be published in the Senate version of the Congressional Record on the first day on which both Houses are in session following receipt of this transmittal. The Board has adopted the same regulations for the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the other covered entities and facilities, and therefore recommends that the adopted regulations be approved by concurrent resolution of the Congress.

Any inquiries regarding this notice should be addressed to Martin J. Crane, Executive Director of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, Room LA-200, 110 Second Street SE, Washington, DC 20540-1999; 202-724-9250.

Sincerely,

BARBARA CHILDS WALLACE,
Chair of the Board of Directors,
Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS AND TRANSMITTAL FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL

Regulations Implementing Certain Substantive Rights and Protections for Job Applicants, as Required by Section 207 of the Congressional Accountability Act ("CAA").

Notice of Adoption of Substantive Regulations and Submission for Approval as Required by 2 U.S.C. § 1316b of the CAA.

Procedural Summary:

Issuance of the Board's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

The Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act of 2019 ("FCA") was enacted as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2020 (H. Rept. 116-333, Title XI, Sections 1121-1124). Under the FCA, Federal employers (including employing offices in the legislative branch) may not request from most job applicants information on arrest and conviction history until a conditional job offer has been extended. Congress applied the FCA to the legislative branch by amending the CAA to add a new section 207, 2 U.S.C. § 1316b.

On June 13, 2024, the Board of Directors ("Board") of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights ("OCWR") published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPR") in the *Congressional Record*. 170 Cong. Rec. H4056-02, S4091-04 (daily ed. June 13, 2024). The NPR proposed substantive regulations relating to implementation of the FCA in the legislative branch. The Board, now having considered comments to the NPR, has adopted, and is submitting for approval by the Congress, final substantive regulations implementing section 207 of the CAA.

Why did the Board propose these substantive regulations?

Section 207(d) of the CAA requires the Board to issue substantive regulations implementing section 207. Section 207(d) requires the Board's regulations to be:

the same as substantive regulations promulgated by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management . . . except to the extent that the Board may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulation, that a modification of such regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under this section.

What procedure followed the Board's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking?

The NPR included a 30-day comment period, which began on June 13, 2024. The Board received three sets of comments to the proposed substantive regulations. The Board has reviewed these comments, made certain changes to its proposed substantive regulations in response to the comments, adopted

final substantive regulations, and is submitting them for approval by Congress pursuant to section 304 of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. § 1384.

What is the effect of the Board's adoption of these substantive regulations?

Adoption of these substantive regulations by the Board does not complete the promulgation process. Pursuant to section 304, following the Board's adoption of the regulations, it must transmit notice of such action together with the regulations and a recommendation regarding the method for Congressional approval of the regulations to the Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate for publication in the *Congressional Record*. This Notice of Adoption of Substantive Regulations and Submission for Congressional Approval completes this step.

What are the next steps in the process of promulgation of these regulations?

Pursuant to section 304(b)(4) of the CAA, the Board is required to "include a recommendation in the general notice of proposed rulemaking and in the regulations as to whether the regulations should be approved by resolution of the Senate, by resolution of the House of Representatives, by concurrent resolution, or by joint resolution." The Board has adopted the same regulations for the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the other covered entities and facilities, and the Board recommends that the adopted regulations be approved by concurrent resolution of the Congress.

Are these substantive regulations also recommended by OCWR's Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director for the Senate, and the Deputy Executive Director for the House of Representatives?

As required by section 304(b)(1) of the CAA, these substantive regulations are recommended by the Deputy Director for the Senate in regard to regulations under subsection (a)(2)(B)(i), the Deputy Director for the House of Representatives in regard to regulations under subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii), and the Executive Director for regulations under subsection (a)(2)(B)(iii).

Has the Board previously adopted substantive regulations implementing 2 U.S.C. § 1316b?

No.

Are these substantive regulations available to persons with disabilities in an alternate format?

This Notice is available on the OCWR's website, www.ocwr.gov, which is compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 794d. This Notice can also be made available in large print, braille, or other alternative format. Requests for this Notice in an alternative format should be made to the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, 202-724-9250 (voice); 202-426-1913 (fax); or ADAaccess@ocwr.gov (e-mail).

The Board's Responses to Comments Received

The Board received comments from three sources. The comments addressed four major points, and one commenter also proposed a number of minor corrections, most of which the Board has incorporated.

Political Appointees

The FCA directs the Office of Personnel Management ("OPM") to issue regulations identifying positions in the executive branch with respect to which the prohibitions under subsection (a) of the Act shall not apply. OPM's substantive regulations thus provide at 5 CFR § 920.201(b)(2) that such prohibitions shall not apply with respect to an applicant for a "political appointment." OPM's regulations define "political appointment" at 5 CFR § 920.101: