

Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Annual Adjustments for 2025" (RIN1290-AA48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-194. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-195. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment of Civil Penalties for Inflation" (RIN1212-AB45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-196. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program" (RIN1210-AB64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-197. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's 2024 FAIR Act Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-198. A communication from the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Performance Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-199. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel/Rules Administrator, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inmate Legal Activities: Visits by Attorneys" (RIN1120-AB75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-200. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel/Rules Administrator, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Tort Claims Act - Technical Changes" (RIN1120-AB80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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 Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER):

S. 257. A bill to improve the resilience of critical supply chains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 258. A bill to improve forecasting and understanding of tornadoes and other hazardous weather, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 259. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to publish a list of entities that hold authorizations, licenses, or other grants of authority issued by the Commission and that have certain foreign ownership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRUZ, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 260. A bill to amend the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act to require hygienic handling of breast milk and baby formula by security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 261. A bill to immediately halt investment by United States persons in the energy sector of Venezuela until the legitimate results of the July 28, 2024, election are respected; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 262. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Roderick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LEE, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 263. A bill to restore the integrity of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SHEEHY, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S.J. Res. 7. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Addressing the Homework Gap Through the E-Rate Program"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 39. A resolution supporting the observation of National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month during the period beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on February 1, 2025, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 40. A resolution commemorating the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the

Auschwitz extermination camp in Nazi-occupied Poland and International Holocaust Remembrance Day; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Res. 41. A resolution authorizing the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate to conduct quarterly blood donation drives during the 119th Congress; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 9

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 9, a bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth.

S. 113

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 113, a bill to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to establish a 3-year phase-in period for de novo financial institutions to comply with Federal capital standards, to provide relief for de novo rural community banks, and for other purposes.

S. 129

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 129, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the application of the income tax on qualified tips through a deduction allowed to all individual taxpayers, and for other purposes.

S. 137

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 137, a bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit the Federal Government from entering into contracts with an entity that discriminates against firearm or ammunition industries, and for other purposes.

S. 200

At the request of Mr. MORENO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 200, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the eligibility requirements for asylum.

S. 204

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 204, a bill to protect the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children as a fundamental right.

S. 213

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income.

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 243

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 243, a bill to extend the period for filing claims under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and to provide for compensation under such Act for claims relating to Manhattan Project waste, and to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 261. A bill to immediately halt investment by United States persons in the energy sector of Venezuela until the legitimate results of the July 28, 2024, election are respected; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in 2018, I had the opportunity to visit Venezuela. It was a once prosperous, albeit imperfect, democracy suffering from terrible economic and political decline. I told then-President Maduro that if he rigged the upcoming election, Venezuelans would be even more isolated and endure further unnecessary suffering.

It didn't stop him for a minute. He went ahead with a discredited election. The result was as predicted: The economy of Venezuela started descending into chaos. People were literally starving. There was an exodus of millions of people from Venezuela.

You might say, if you believe that the United States has no responsibility: What is it our business anyway? Countries are going to have failed governments, and so what? What difference does it make? Well, the difference it makes is the thousands and thousands of Venezuelans who were part of an exodus from Venezuela. Most of them went to Colombia and nearby nations, but many of them came to the United States. I know. I met them. They were the bus people that were sent to Chicago, for example, by the Governor of Texas, overwhelmingly Venezuelans.

How many actually came to the United States, I am not sure. I am not sure anybody really knows, but we are talking about thousands.

And at this point, imagine what we are suggesting. This man Maduro is still in control in Venezuela, and we are going to go through a mass deportation where we round up the Venezuelans who came to this country and send them back, back to starvation, political oppression.

I get it. If you are a dangerous person, you never should have come to this country in the first place. And if you commit a serious crime once you are here, I don't believe you should stay. Just that basic.

I don't go as far as the bill we considered a week or so ago. I believe that prosecution and a finding of guilt is still important in an America that is ruled by due process.

But having said that, What are we going to do about Venezuela? The same man is still there, and there have been not one, but two rotten, suspect elections in the time since I have been there.

Last July, for example, Venezuela held another Presidential election, during which the regime arbitrarily blocked the leading opposition candidates from the ballot and tried to undermine the electoral process. Nonetheless, more than 10 million Venezuelans actually voted. And results meticulously documented by credible election monitors showed a sweeping victory not for Maduro, the incumbent, but for Edmundo Gonzalez, his opponent.

I was glad to see that one of the newly confirmed Secretary of State Rubio's first calls was to President-elect Gonzalez, who actually won the election.

Despite his sweeping, clear victory, the Maduro regime has refused to give up the office of Presidency and refused to recognize the legitimate election results.

Maduro regime announced they won—actually, not true; arbitrarily arrested thousands of opponents; issued an arrest warrant for Gonzalez, which is becoming a common trick by these dictators; and refused to swear him in on inauguration day.

So today, I am introducing a short bill terminating U.S. petroleum cooperation and related trade with Venezuela until the legitimate results of the election are respected.

It is pretty simple. The entrenched regime clings to power using oil revenues, some of them from the United States. Under my bill, that comes to an end.

President Trump and Secretary Rubio could also take this step right now without my legislation, but maybe the bill will be a reminder that this is a good idea.

Lastly, I appealed to our democratic allies in the region, including the democracies of the Caribbean, to stand resolute in defense of a sweeping and clear vote by their exhausted Venezuelan neighbors. They cannot sit idly by for another 6 years of regime-inflicted suffering and collapse in Venezuela.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 261

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 “Halt All United States Investments in Venezuela’s Energy Sector Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On July 28, 2024, more than 10,000,000 citizens of Venezuela voted in a presidential election in which meticulously documented and publicized data from credible election monitors clearly and convincingly showed that opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez received more than two-thirds of the votes against the regime of Nicolas Maduro.

(2) The Maduro regime has refused to respect the overwhelming choice of the people of Venezuela and subsequently arrested and abused thousands of innocent citizens of Venezuela, including children, for peaceful political participation.

(3) Despite overwhelming evidence that Edmundo Gonzalez won a decisive victory to be Venezuela’s next president, the Maduro regime ignored the results of the election and the law of Venezuela by forcibly refusing to allow Gonzalez to be sworn in on Venezuela’s January 10, 2025, inauguration day.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON INVESTMENT BY UNITED STATES PERSONS IN ENERGY SECTOR OF VENEZUELA UNTIL THE LEGITIMATE RESULTS OF THE JULY 28, 2024, ELECTION ARE RESPECTED.

(a) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the following transactions are prohibited:

(A) Any petroleum-related transaction allowed—

(i) as a result of the Partial Agreement on the Promotion of Political Rights and Electoral Guarantees for All, agreed to by the regime of Nicolas Maduro and the political opposition in Venezuela in October 2023 (commonly known as the “Barbados Agreement”); or

(ii) pursuant to a license issued after entry into that agreement relating to petroleum-related transactions with Venezuela.

(B) Any transaction allowed under General License No. 41 or General License No. 8M of the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury on the day before such date of enactment.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The prohibitions under paragraph (1) shall apply to the extent provided by law and regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to this section.

(b) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—The President may waive the prohibitions under subsection (a) if the President—

(1) determines that the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(2) submits in writing to the appropriate congressional committees a report, which may include a classified annex, on that determination and the reasons for the determination.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may take such actions, including prescribing regulations, as are necessary to implement this section.

(B) IEEPA AUTHORITIES.—For purposes of implementing this section, the Secretary of the Treasury may exercise the authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704).