

S. 311, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for education.

S. 315

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 315, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 338

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 338, a bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his contributions to civil rights, his loyalty and patriotism to the United States, and his dedication to justice and equality.

S. 422

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 422, a bill to protect an individual's ability to access contraceptives and to engage in contraception and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception.

S. 461

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 461, a bill to exempt children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitations on immigrant visas, and for other purposes.

S. 485

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. 485, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 513

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 513, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish and carry out a grant program to conserve, restore, and manage kelp forest ecosystems, and for other purposes.

S. 515

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 515, a bill to repeal the Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

S. 525

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 525, a bill to transfer the

functions, duties, responsibilities, assets, liabilities, orders, determinations, rules, regulations, permits, grants, loans, contracts, agreements, certificates, licenses, and privileges of the United States Agency for International Development relating to implementing and administering the Food for Peace Act to the Department of Agriculture.

S.J. RES. 16

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 16, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of nine justices.

S. RES. 47

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 47, a resolution designating January 30, 2025, as "Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution".

S. RES. 53

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 53, a resolution recognizing the 80th anniversary of the amphibious landing on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima during World War II and the raisings of the flag of the United States on Mount Suribachi.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 75—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES OF NATO MUST COMMIT AT LEAST 2 PERCENT OF THEIR NATIONAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT TO NATIONAL DEFENSE SPENDING TO HOLD LEADERSHIP OR BENEFIT AT THE EXPENSE OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. DAINES, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 75

Whereas, in 2014, the heads of state and governments of the member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (commonly known as "NATO") renewed their earlier commitment to invest 2 percent of their national gross domestic product (referred to in this preamble as "GDP") to defense spending to help ensure the continued military readiness of NATO;

Whereas NATO considers the 2 percent commitment as a floor and not a ceiling for what member countries of NATO have committed to invest in their national defense efforts;

Whereas the current global security environment has caused the current leadership of NATO and the United States to consider raising this commitment even higher;

Whereas 23 of the 31 member countries spent at least 2 percent of their GDP on national defense in 2024; and

Whereas, since the year 2000, NATO has lost almost \$2,000,000,000,000 in mutual defense spending capability from member countries not meeting the commitment of 2 percent of their GDP towards defense; and

Whereas it is in the interest of all member countries to meet the 2 percent minimum commitment or have a plan in place to do so before the opening session of the NATO Summit in The Hague, which is scheduled to take place in June 2025: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) any citizen of a member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (commonly known as "NATO") that is not meeting its commitment to spend 2 percent of its gross domestic product (referred to in this resolution as "GDP") on national defense should not be allowed to hold any position within the leadership of NATO, including positions such as—

(A) the Secretary General of NATO;

(B) the Deputy Secretary General of NATO;

(C) any Assistant Secretaries General of NATO;

(D) the NATO Spokesperson; and

(E) any uniformed military leadership or command positions within the structure of NATO at the 2-star (OF-7) level or above; and

(2) any member country of NATO that fails to meet its commitment to spend 2 percent of its GDP on national defense should not be allowed to host any significant formal or informal meetings, conferences, or summits of NATO at the ministerial level or above, outside established routine corporate processes of NATO that direct military operations or coordination at a headquarters location, that would provide substantial economic benefit to the economy and enable the ability for that member country to receive international recognition, including—

(A) the NATO Summit;

(B) meetings of NATO Ministers of Foreign Affairs;

(C) NATO Parliamentary Assembly sessions; and

(D) the NATO Youth Summit or similar events.

SENATE RESOLUTION 76—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

Mr. CASSIDY submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions which which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 76

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (in this resolution referred to as the "committee") is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES.

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this resolution shall not exceed \$7,767,027, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this resolution shall not exceed \$13,314,904, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this resolution shall not exceed \$5,547,877, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for "Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations" of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions re-

lated to the compensation of employees of the committee—

(1) for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025;

(2) for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have seven 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 11 a.m., to consider a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following fellows in my office be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 1st session of the 119th Congress: Mary Fernandes, Sarah Goldman, Adam Hasz, and Alyssa Rudelis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LOCAL ACCESS TO COURTS ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 32 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. 32) to clarify where court may be held for certain district courts in Texas and California.

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

Mr. THUNE. 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. 32) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 32

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 "Local Access to Courts Act" or "LACA".

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF TEXAS DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 124(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (3), by inserting "and College Station" before the period at the end.

SEC. 3. ORGANIZATION OF CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 84(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting "and El Centro" after "at San Diego".

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 13; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session to resume Executive Calendar No. 17 under the previous order; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the