nuclear forensics during the course of the student's graduate career; and

''(II) require each recipient to commit to serve for 2 years in a post-doctoral position in a technical nuclear forensics-related specialty at a national laboratory or appropriate Federal agency after graduation;

''(iii) make available to faculty awards, with a duration of 3 to 5 years each, to ensure faculty and their graduate students have a sustained funding stream; and

''(iv) place a particular emphasis on reinvigorating technical nuclear forensics programs while encouraging the participation of undergraduate students, graduate students, and university faculty from historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions, Alaska Native-serving institutions, and Hawaiian Native-serving institutions; and

''(C) shall—

''(i) provide for the selection of individuals to receive scholarships or fellowships under this section through a competitive process primarily on the basis of academic merit and the nuclear forensics and attribution needs of the United States Government;

''(ii) provide for the setting aside of up to 10 percent of the scholarships or fellowships awarded under this section for individuals who are Federal employees to enhance the education of such employees in areas of critical nuclear forensics and attribution needs of the United States Government, for doctoral education under the scholarship on a full-time or part-time basis;

''(iii) provide that the Secretary may enter into a contractual agreement with an institution of higher education under which the amounts provided for a scholarship under this section for tuition, fees, and other authorized expenses are paid directly to the institution with respect to which such scholarship is awarded;

''(iv) require scholarship recipients to maintain satisfactory academic progress; and

''(v) require that—

''(I) a scholarship recipient who fails to maintain a high level of academic standing, as defined by the Secretary, who is dismissed for disciplinary reasons from the educational institution such recipient is attending, or who voluntarily terminates academic training before graduation from the educational program for which the scholarship was awarded shall be liable to the United States for repayment within 1 year after the date of such default of all scholarship funds paid to such recipient and to the institution of higher education on the behalf of such recipient, provided that the repayment period may be extended by the Secretary if the Secretary determines it necessary, as established by regulation; and

''(II) a scholarship recipient who, for any reason except death or disability, fails to begin or complete the post-doctoral service requirements in a technical nuclear forensics-related specialty at a national laboratory or appropriate Federal agency after completion of academic training shall be liable to the United States for an amount equal to—

''(aa) the total amount of the scholarship received by such recipient under this section; and

''(bb) the interest on such amounts which would be payable if at the time the scholarship was received such scholarship was a loan bearing interest at the maximum legally prevailing rate;

''(13) provide an annual report to Congress on the activities carried out under paragraphs (10), (11), and (12); and''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ALASKA NATIVE-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The term 'Alaska Native-serving institution' has the meaning given the term in section 317 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d).

''(2) ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The term 'Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution' has the meaning given the term in section 320 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059g).

''(3) HAWAIIAN NATIVE-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The term 'Hawaiian native-serving institution' has the meaning given the term in section 317 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d).

''(4) HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The term 'Hispanic-serving institution' has the meaning given that term in section 502 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a).

''(5) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term 'historically Black college or university' has the meaning given the term 'part B institution' in section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)).

''(6) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term 'Tribal College or University' has the meaning given that term in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)).''.

(b) JOINT INTERAGENCY ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT TO CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1907(a)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 596a(a)(1)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) the Director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office and each of the relevant departments that are partners in the National Technical Forensics Center—

''(i) include, as part of the assessments, evaluations, and reviews required under this paragraph, each office's or department's activities and investments in support of nuclear forensics and attribution activities and specific goals and objectives accomplished during the previous year pursuant to the national strategic five-year plan for improving the nuclear forensic and attribution capabilities of the United States required under section 1036 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010;

''(ii) attaches, as an appendix to the Joint Interagency Annual Review, the most current version of such strategy and plan; and

''(iii) includes a description of new or amended bilateral and multilateral agreements and efforts in support of nuclear forensics and attribution activities accomplished during the previous year.''.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the committee substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 730), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

EXTENDING THE COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION LIABILITY REGIME

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 249, H.R. 3819, an act to extend the commercial space transportation liability regime.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3819) to extend the commercial space transportation liability regime.

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

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3819) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—EXECUTIVE NOMINATION

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of the following nomination and that the nomination be referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Timothy McGee, of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2009

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 6:45 a.m., Thursday, December 24; 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, and the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3590, with the time until 7 a.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill at 7 a.m., as provided for under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, there will be two rollcall votes beginning at 7 a.m. tomorrow. The first vote will be on passage of H.R. 3590. The second vote will be on passage of H.R. 4314. Senators are encouraged to be in the Chamber at the beginning of the first vote and to vote from their desks.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 6:45 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. CASEY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I

ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:15 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 24, 2009, at 6:45 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

DANIEL J. BECKER, OF UTAH, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2010, VICE ROBERT NELSON BALDWIN, TERM EXPIRED.

JAMES R. HANNAH, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2010, VICE JOSEPH FRANCIS BACA, TERM EXPIRED.

GAYLE A. NACHTIGAL, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2012, VICE SOPHIA H. HALL, TERM EXPIRED.

JOHN B. NALBANDIAN, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2010, VICE KEITH MCNAMARA, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ANDRE BIROTTE, JR., OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE THOMAS P. O'BRIEN.

DAVID A. CAPP, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOSEPH S. VAN BOKKELEN, RESIGNED.

RICHARD S. HARTUNIAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE GLENN T. SUDDABY, RESIGNED.

WILLIAM JOSEPH HOCHUL, JR., OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE TERRANCE P. FLYNN, RESIGNED.

RONALD C. MACHEN, JR., OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE KENNETH L. WAINSTEIN, RESIGNED.

ANNE M. TOMPKINS, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE GRETCHEN C.F. SHAPPERT, RESIGNED.

SALLY QUILLIAN YATES, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE DAVID E. NAHMIAS, RESIGNED.

NOEL CULVER MARCH, OF MAINE, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE DAVID DONALD VILES.

GEORGE WHITE, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE NEHEMIAH FLOWERS.

BEATRICE A. HANSON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME, VICE JOHN W. GILLIS.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent to be re-referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the nomination was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation by unanimous consent under authority of the order of the Senate of 12/23/2009:

TIMOTHY MCGEE, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on December 23, 2009 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

SUEDEEN G. KELLY, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2014, (REAPPOINTMENT), WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JULY 28, 2009.