

From the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for consideration of sections 313, 651, 663, 801, 812, 833, 952, 1101-04, 1111, 1616, 1683, 1702, 1704-06, and 2811 of the House bill and sections 641, 822, 825, 844, 844A, 892, 894-96, 903, 1099A, 1101-04, and subtitle B of title LIII of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. ISSA, WALBERG, and CUMMINGS.

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of sections 916, 1074, 1603, 1617, 1661, and 3158 of the House bill and sections 271, 912, 1046, title XVIII, sections 3153, 3159 and 3504 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. HALL, Mrs. BIGGERT, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of sections 1611, 1621-23, 1631, 1632, 1641, 1651-58, 1661, 1671-73, 1681-83, 1691, 1693a, 1695, and 1697 of the House bill and sections 848, 888, 889E, 1090, and 1099E of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sections 334, 535, 601, 704, 1074, 1078, 2801, and 3509 of the House bill and sections 521, 1803, 1804, 3503-05, 3508, and 3509 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. MICA, COBLE, and BISHOP of New York.

From the Committee on Veterans Affairs, for consideration of sections 355, 564, 565, 664, and 728 of the House bill and sections 642, 755, 756, 759-64, 1044, 1087, 1090, 1097, 1099B, and title L of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. BILIRAKIS, LAMBORN, and MICHAUD.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1379. An act to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise certain administrative authorities of the District of Columbia courts, and to authorize the District of Columbia Public Defender Service to provide professional liability insurance for officers and employees of the Service for claims relating to services furnished within the scope of employment with the Service.

S. 3315. An act to repeal or modify certain mandates of the Government Accountability Office.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. COONS).

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 14, 2012, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1998. An act to obtain an unqualified audit opinion, and improve financial ac-

countability and management at the Department of Homeland Security.

S. 3542. An act to authorize the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to modify screening requirements for checked baggage arriving from preclearance airports, and for other purposes.

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 14, 2012, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 17, 2012, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1379. An act to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise certain administrative authorities of the District of Columbia courts, and to authorize the District of Columbia Public Defender Service to provide professional liability insurance for officers and employees of the Service for claims relating to services furnished within the scope of employment with the Service.

S. 3315. An act to repeal or modify certain mandates of the Government Accountability Office.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. AKAKA, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 675. A bill to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity (Rept. No. 112-251).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1223. A bill to address voluntary location tracking of electronic communications devices, 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. WARNER:

S. 3684. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for advanced illness care coordination services for Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 3685. A bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 3686. A bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to establish provisions with respect to religious accommodations in employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 3687. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, to designate certain Federal buildings, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 3688. A bill to provide effective criminal prosecutions for certain identity thefts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 619. A resolution to elect Patrick J. Leahy, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to be President pro tempore of the Senate of the United States; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 620. A resolution to authorize Harry Reid, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to administer the oath of office of President of the Senate pro tempore to Patrick J. Leahy, a Senator from the State of Vermont; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr.

BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 621. A resolution condemning the horrific attacks in Newtown, Connecticut, and expressing support and prayers for all those impacted by that tragedy; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 32

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 32, a bill to prohibit the transfer or possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices, and for other purposes.

S. 3461

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3461, a bill to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to provide for a National Pediatric Research Network, including with respect to pediatric rare diseases or conditions.

S. 3633

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3633, a bill to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Anchorage, Alaska, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversion interest to the City.

S. 3678

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3678, a bill to help ensure the fiscal solvency of the FHA mortgage insurance programs of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 439

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 439, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Village Voice Media Holdings, LLC should eliminate the "adult entertainment" section of the classified advertising website Backpage.com.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 3685. A bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce S. 3685, The Department of the Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2012. I am proud to introduce this bill and I am thankful for the cosponsorship of my friend and colleague, the Vice Chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee, Senator BARRASSO. The Department of the Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2012 is an important next step in our Federal policy of recognizing and supporting tribal self-governance.

Our country's Native peoples have always had the right to govern themselves. When the earliest explorers arrived in the New World, they recognized the sovereignty of the Native peoples they met. Soon after, European colonial nations began entering into treaties with Indian tribes as they expanded into the American continent. It is clear, from the terms of the Constitution, our Founding Fathers understood the sovereign authority of tribes, and their capacity to be self-governing. From our earliest days as a Nation, we

entered into treaties with the Indian tribes, just as we did with a diversity of foreign nations, governing issues such as trade, peace, and other relations.

With our westward expansion, and as public sentiment and Federal policy objectives turned to Manifest Destiny during the 19th century, Federal policies toward our Country's first peoples changed, and the movement to remove and assimilate the Native peoples began. The United States, recognizing the sovereignty of tribes, again relied on treaties to facilitate the acquisition of native lands, and promised in exchange to provide for Indian health, education, welfare, and housing.

This change in Federal policy devastated Native peoples. It turned out that the Federal Government was not a very effective administrator of programs aimed at fulfilling our country's trust responsibility to its native peoples.

By the late 1960's and early 1970's Federal Indian policy shifted again to one that began to reaffirm the inherent right of Native peoples to govern themselves and fully support them in doing so. This policy became formalized by the enactment of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act in 1975, which enabled tribes to contract with certain Federal agencies to provide federal programs to their tribal members and communities.

Subsequent legislation allowed tribes greater flexibility in designing and operating Indian 410 programs for tribes who have a demonstrated capacity. Currently, about 60 percent of tribes carry out self-governance compacts with either the Department of the Interior or the Indian Health Service, or both.

Federal reaffirmation and support of tribal sovereignty through self-governance programs has enabled tribes to generate revenues through their own business enterprises, establish their own courts and law enforcement systems, and remake school curricula to better meet the needs of Native students. Importantly, tribes have done this without forced assimilation to mainstream American traditions and norms. This Federal focus on self-determination and self-governance has proven to be the only Federal policy that has worked for Native communities. Studies show that self-determination policies have enabled Indian tribes to build strong economies, reverse decades of language loss, and tailor programs and services to better meet the needs of their people.

It is our responsibility to ensure that our policy of self-governance advances to meet the needs of native peoples. As Chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee, it has come to my attention that several relatively minor technical changes are needed to the underlying law to ensure the goals of our federal policy are realized. For instance, I understand that the administration of programs under both the Department

of the Interior and the Indian Health Service can be unnecessarily cumbersome for tribes due to different requirements for each. At the Committee's hearing on the topic of Self-Determination and Self-Governance held in September, witnesses from the Administration and Native governments alike lauded the positive effects Self-Determination Era policies are having on Native communities and stressed the importance of amending the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to ensure tribes can manage these programs efficiently. S. 3685 will streamline processes and make it simpler for tribes to manage programs to benefit their members. It has been developed after months of tribal consultation and has been a bi-partisan effort. In crafting this bill, we have been careful to ensure that none of its provisions will affect current law relating to contracting or compacting of non-BIA programs under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, or congressionally approved water settlements.

I encourage all of my colleagues to stand with me in support of this important legislative initiative.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise to join my good friend, Senator AKAKA, in sponsoring the Department of the Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2012.

Congress passed the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act in 1975 to set forth a new dynamic in the Federal-tribal relationship. Since then, we have seen many benefits for Indian communities as a result of the Federal Indian policy of self-determination in general and the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act in particular. Indian self-determination is one of the most successful, if not the most successful, Federal Indian policies in the history of our country's relations with Indian Country.

The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act was amended over 20 years ago to include the Self-Governance program. Self-Governance became a permanent program in the Department of the Interior in 1994, and it has been a resounding success. Now, as of 2012, hundreds of Indian tribes are participating in the Self-Governance program in one way or another.

It comes as no surprise to me, that the Indian tribes can administer these programs on behalf of their own people far better than the Federal government could ever hope to administer them.

Nevertheless, after some 18 years, the time has come for the self-governance program to be reviewed and improved. This bill is intended to provide "key improvements to the way self-governance works in the Department of the Interior, improvements that have been studied, evaluated, discussed, and negotiated by the tribes and by the Department of the Interior.

During the course of this Congress, some issues did arise relating to the