

executive branch and the Congress of the United States to work in conjunction with the State of Texas to identify federal regulations promulgated during the last eight years, especially those promulgated under the authority of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Department of the Interior, and the United States Department of Energy, and determine whether they should be revised, delegated to state agencies, or eliminated in order to ease the overly burdensome regulatory patchwork on the oil and gas industry in Texas; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM—147. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to increase appropriations from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to ensure that the nation's ship channels are maintained and safe, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37

Whereas, Seaport activities generate more than \$4 trillion in economic activity each year, representing more than a quarter of United States gross domestic product and yielding more than \$41 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenue; and

Whereas, To support this critical component of international trade, the United States Congress established the Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) on shippers in 1986 as a means of funding the maintenance and improvement of vital harbor infrastructure; and

Whereas, HMT revenues deposited into the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund now total about \$1.6 billion annually, but in recent years, Congress has appropriated less than half of those funds for the intended purpose, leading to a decline in dredging and maintenance by the United States Army Corps of Engineers; the consequence is an accumulation of sediment that leaves navigation channels narrower and shallower, and when silted channels constrain vessels from carrying full loads or force them to wait for high tide, the costs of imports and exports rise, as does the risk of vessel grounding and associated oil spills; the Corps of Engineers has estimated that the full depth and width of our coastal ports is available less than 35 percent of the time, costing the economy billions of dollars annually; and

Whereas, Each year, the HMT provides an amount sufficient to meet all of the nation's authorized harbor maintenance needs, but as a result of lagging appropriations, the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund had a balance of more than \$9 billion at the start of 2016; in Texas alone, less than 25 percent of the HMT revenue collected in the state has been appropriated for harbor maintenance; and

Whereas, Our nation's ports are vital to our economic prosperity and global competitiveness, and these funds, which were collected for the express purpose of the maintenance and improvement of the ports, should be put to work; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to increase appropriations from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to ensure that the nation's ship channels are appropriately maintained and safe; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to

the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM—148. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to direct the Bureau of Land Management to affirm the provisions of the Red River Boundary Compact and to acknowledge that the vegetation line on the south bank of the Red River forms the boundary between Oklahoma and Texas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

Whereas, The Red River Boundary Compact of 2000 set the boundary between Texas and Oklahoma at the vegetation line on the south bank of the Red River, with the exception of the Texoma area, where the boundary is established pursuant to procedures outlined in the agreement; and

Whereas, In 2013, the United States Bureau of Land Management began developing a resource management plan for the use of land along a 116-mile stretch of the Red River; it claims that as many as 90,000 acres in Texas may actually be part of federal lands and would therefore be public land under a 1923 Supreme Court ruling; and

Whereas, Many Texas residents have held title to this land for generations, and they have been paying property taxes on the land while cultivating and maintaining it; the boundary between the states was settled in 2000 for legal jurisdiction, when the U.S. Congress ratified the compact, but now, confusion over the boundary threatens the value of this privately owned land and makes it difficult for property owners to make informed decisions concerning its disposition and their livelihoods; and

Whereas, Private property rights are the bedrock of a free society, and the actions of the Bureau of Land Management with regard to land covered by the Red River Boundary Compact are an egregious example of federal overreach; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to direct the Bureau of Land Management to affirm the provisions of the Red River Boundary Compact and to acknowledge that the vegetation line on the south bank of the Red River forms the boundary between Oklahoma and Texas; and, be it further.

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, to the director of the United States Bureau of Land Management, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM—149. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to enact legislation to ensure that all veterans receive, in a timely manner, the level of medical care that they have earned and that they so richly deserve, to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

Whereas, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is charged with ensuring the health and well-being of the nation's veterans, but in recent years, its failure to adequately perform its mission has been the source of scandal; and

Whereas, in 2014, the United States Congress responded to unconscionable delays and denials of care at VA facilities by passing the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, which allows access to private medical care providers for veterans who have been waiting more than 30 days for an appointment or who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility; this law is set to expire in 2017; and

Whereas, by expanding the reforms of the Veterans Choice Act, Congress can improve the VA system, broadening access to timely health care while offering greater choice and flexibility to every eligible veteran; experts have proposed allowing access to walk-in clinics without preauthorization or copayment, expanding VA pharmacy hours and telemedicine, and extending the Veterans Choice Card program to permit all qualified veterans to see the doctor of their choice; in addition, those who have studied the system carefully encourage best-practices peer review for VA facilities; and

Whereas, our nation's veterans have made enormous sacrifices to guarantee our freedoms, and although the nation can never fully repay its debt of gratitude, it can and should ensure timely access to the highest quality of medical care: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to enact legislation to ensure that all veterans receive in a timely manner the level of medical care that they have earned and that they so richly deserve; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM—150. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to pass a budget; to the Committee on the Budget.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 59

Whereas, For too long, Congress has proven itself fiscally irresponsible and has created a crushing national debt through improvident and imprudent spending; and

Whereas, The deleterious effect of this fiscal mismanagement on our economy and the strength of our nation is ongoing and the consequences of inaction are severe; and

Whereas, Setting a federal budget is an essential aspect of governing, and Congress must accept its responsibility to regularly pass a budget bill; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to pass a budget; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered into the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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. SCHATZ:

S. 2260. A bill to establish and fund an Opioids and STOP Initiative to expand, intensify, and coordinate fundamental, translational, and clinical research of the National Institutes of Health with respect to opioid abuse, the understanding of pain, and the discovery and development of safer and more effective treatments and preventive interventions for pain; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2261. A bill to protect the administration of Federal elections against cybersecurity threats; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2262. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a board to coordinate and integrate departmental intelligence and activities and policy related to counterterrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2263. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to require base acres planted to fruits, vegetables, and wild rice to be considered planted to a covered commodity for purposes of any recalculation of base acres; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2264. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2265. A bill to promote democracy and the rule of law in Nicaragua, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 2266. A bill to authorize the Office on Violence Against Women to improve the handling of crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by incorporating a trauma-informed approach into the initial response to and investigation of such crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 2267. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to prioritize certain pension claims in bankruptcy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 2268. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to modify certain provisions relating to the capital financing of historically Black colleges and universities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2269. A bill to reauthorize the Global Food Security Act of 2016 for 5 additional years; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. BALDWIN):

S. 2270. A bill to make improvements to the account for the State response to the opioid abuse crisis to improve tribal health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2271. A bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2272. A bill to amend the Revised Statutes to grant State attorneys general the ability to issue subpoenas to investigate suspected violations of State laws that are applicable to national banks; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2273. A bill to extend the period during which vessels that are shorter than 79 feet in length and fishing vessels are not required to have a permit for discharges incidental to the normal operation of the vessel; considered and passed.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. UDALL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2274. A bill to provide for the compensation of Federal employees affected by lapses in appropriations; read the first time.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S.J. Res. 51. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve; 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 Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 364. A resolution congratulating the University of Central Missouri women's soccer team for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Women's Soccer Championship at Swope Soccer Village in Kansas City, Missouri; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. SASSE):

S. Res. 365. A resolution congratulating the University of Nebraska-Lincoln volleyball team for winning the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Volleyball Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BARR):

S. Res. 366. A resolution honoring the accomplishments of the 9 historically Black colleges and universities that celebrated their sesquicentennial anniversaries during the week of September 24 through September 30, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 266

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East.

S. 793

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 793, a bill to prohibit sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 872

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 872, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 946

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 946, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire additional Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists to provide treatment court services to justice-involved veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 980

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 980, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for payments for certain rural health clinic and Federally qualified health center services furnished to hospice patients under the Medicare program.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1697, a bill to condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens and United States Citizens.

S. 1706

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1706, a bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States.

S. 1719

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1719, a bill to eliminate duties on imports of recreational performance outerwear, to establish the Sustainable Textile and Apparel Research Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out