

## PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE DESIGNATION AS EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS ALL FUNDING SO DESIGNATED BY THE CONGRESS IN THE CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020, PURSUANT TO SECTION 251(B)(2)(A) OF THE BALANCED BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL ACT OF 1985, FOR THE ENCLOSED LIST OF ACCOUNTS, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON MARCH 6, 2020—PM 51

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report and papers; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 507 of division A of the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 (H.R. 6074; the "Act"), I hereby designate as emergency requirements all funding so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

DONALD J. TRUMP,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 6, 2020.

## MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

## ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 5214. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to prevent fraud by representative payees.

H.R. 5671. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Merchant Mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

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

## MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3422. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Indian Education, and to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for other purposes.

## EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4226. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lacey Act Implementation Plan: De Minimis Exception" ((RIN0579-AD44) (Docket No. APHIS-2013-0055)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4227. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Regulations for the Evaluation and Recognition of the Animal Health Status of Compartments" ((RIN0579-AE43) (Docket No. APHIS-2017-0105)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4228. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), transmitting a report entitled "Review of Security Assistance Programs as Requested in the Conference Report (H.R. 115-952) Joint Explanatory Statement to Accompany the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2019 (Division A of P.L. 115-245)"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4229. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Updates and Elimination of Certain TAAF and PWEDA Regulations" (RIN0610-AA80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4230. A communication from the Board of Trustees, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual management report relative to its operations and financial condition for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4231. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) relative to tribal crime data collection activities; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-4232. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Elder Fraud Legislative Proposal"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4233. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)" (RIN0790-AK90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2020; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-4234. A communication from the Chairman, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the memorial construction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-4235. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Government Contracting and Business Development,

Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Defense Authorization Acts of 2016 and 2017, Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015, and Other Small Business Contracting; Correction" (RIN3245-AG86) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 21, 2020; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-4236. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, Connect America Fund" ((RIN3060-AK57) (WC Docket Nos. 19-126 and 10-90)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-187. A joint resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico urging the United States Congress to enact legislation providing for a five year transition period to enforce the provisions of the Farm Bill through which the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. section 2156) is applied to Puerto Rico, banning any type of animal fighting venture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

## JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 126

The United States Congress passed the H.R. 2 Conference Report, known as the Farm Bill, which included an amendment to the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2156) extending the application thereof to Puerto Rico. The aforementioned statute bans all animal fighting ventures including cockfights.

Cockfighting is considered a traditional sport in Puerto Rico which has been deeply rooted in our culture and history for over five hundred years. Cockfights in Puerto Rico are regulated by Act No. 98-2007, as amended, known as the "Puerto Rico Gamecocks of the New Millennium Act," and by Regulation No. 7424. Both the Act and the regulations in effect, which stem from our extensive experience holding cockfights officially overseen by the State, regulate, control, oversee, and promote all the activities related to this sport.

In Puerto Rico there are over seventy (70) cockpits distributed among forty-five (45) municipalities throughout the Island. This industry creates a total of eleven thousand one hundred and thirty-four (11,134) direct, indirect, and induced jobs. The cockfighting industry injects \$65 million annually into Puerto Rico's economy mainly from the consumption of agricultural products, gamecock farms, medications, vitamins, services, tourism, establishment operations, attendee consumption, permits, and licenses. Just in one year, a total of eighty-eight thousand three hundred (88,300) cockfights were held for a total three hundred and forty-four thousand (344,000) attendees.

The one (1)-year transition period provided by this Act is not enough to mitigate the economic impact it shall have on the Island, nor does it provide enough time for the federal law enforcement agencies to implement it. Therefore, it would promote the proliferation of underground cockfights.

Thus, it is essential to allow for a five (5)-year transition process. It is very important