

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Market Research and Consideration of Value for the Determination of Price” (RIN0750-AK65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4859. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Justification and Approval Threshold for 8(a) Contracts” (RIN0750-AK93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4860. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Qualifications Requirements for Contracting Positions” (RIN0750-AK99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4861. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Home Mortgage Disclosure (Regulation C)” (RIN3170-AA76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4862. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Remittance Transfers under the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (Regulation E)” (RIN3170-AA96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4863. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of the designation of Jason Kearns as Chairman and Randolph J. Stayin as Vice Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, effective June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4864. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2021; Notice Requirement for Non-Federal Government Plans” (RIN0938-AT98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4865. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency” (RIN0938-AU31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4866. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, with respect to North Korea, received in the office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4867. A communication from the Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “June 2020 Report to the Congress:

Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4868. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Service Contracts” (RIN3072-AC80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4869. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Interpretive Rule on Demurrage and Detention Under the Shipping Act” (RIN3072-AC76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4870. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 58th Annual Report of the activities of the Federal Maritime Commission for fiscal year 2019; 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-204. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by supporting H.R. 141 and S. 521 of the 116th Congress, the Social Security Fairness Act; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefit, payable to any person who also receives a public pension benefit earned in public employment not covered by Social Security; and

Whereas, the GPO can negatively affect a retired public employee receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit earned in employment not covered by Social Security who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by the retiree’s spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the retired public employee, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit even though the retiree’s spouse paid Social Security taxes throughout the marriage; and

Whereas, according to the Congressional Research Service, nearly seven hundred thousand people were affected by the GPO in December 2018, including more than thirty-seven thousand Louisianians; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits in public employment not covered by Social Security, in addition to paying social security taxes while working in employment covered by Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may re-

duce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered by Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earned themselves; and

Whereas, according to the Congressional Research Service, nearly two million people, or about three percent of all Social Security beneficiaries were affected by the WEP in December 2019; and

Whereas, in certain circumstances both the WEP and the GPO can be applied to a qualifying survivor’s benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and, in combination, eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the survivor; and

Whereas, because of the calculation characteristics of the WEP and the GPO, they have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like teachers, school workers, and state employees; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by the WEP and the GPO is growing as nearly ten thousand baby boomers attain retirement age each day; and

Whereas, individuals drastically affected by the WEP and the GPO may have no choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings accumulated during reemployment in the public sector may further reduce the Social Security benefits the individual is entitled to; and

Whereas, the global pandemic, the current financial market volatility, medical advances increasing longevity, and the escalating cost of health care further contribute to the expenses that those of social security age must bear; and

Whereas, the WEP and the GPO are established in federal law, and repeal or reduction of the WEP and the GPO can be enacted only by Congress. Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by supporting H.R. 141 and S. 521 of the 116th Congress, the Social Security Fairness Act; and be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1069. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-234).