

licensed manufacturer, licensed collector, or special firearms event licensee who knowingly makes any false statement or representation with respect to the information required by this chapter to be kept in the records of a person licensed under this chapter, or violates section 922(m) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

“(B) If the violation described in subparagraph (A) is in relation to an offense—

“(i) under paragraph (1) or (3) of section 922(b), such person shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both; or

“(ii) under subsection (a)(6) or (d) of section 922, such person shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.”

SEC. 207. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENTS.

Section 924(a) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 203(b), is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking “subsection (s) or (t) of section 922” and inserting “section 922(s)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) Whoever knowingly violates section 922(t) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.”

SEC. 208. RULE OF INTERPRETATION.

A provision of State law is not inconsistent with this title or an amendment made by this title if the provision imposes a regulation or prohibition of greater scope or a penalty of greater severity than any prohibition or penalty imposed by this title or an amendment made by this title.

SEC. 209. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This title and the amendments made by this title shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate office building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled “Ensuring Television Carriage in the Digital Age” on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled “Executive Nominations” on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at 2 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Aging be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in Dirksen 106 for the purpose of conducting a business meeting and hearing.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ted Vogt of Senator KYL’s staff be given floor privileges during the duration of the debate on S. 160.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces on behalf of the Committee on Finance, pursuant to section 8002 of title 26, U.S. Code, the designation of the following Senators as members of the Joint Committee on Taxation: the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH).

COMMEMORATING THE ROLE OF ENSLAVED AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CAPITOL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further con-

sideration of S. Res. 53 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res 53) authorizing a plaque commemorating the role of enslaved African Americans in the construction of the Capitol.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 53) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 53

Whereas enslaved African-Americans provided labor essential to the construction of the Capitol;

Whereas enslaved African-Americans performed the backbreaking work of quarrying the stone which comprised many of the floors, walls, and columns of the Capitol;

Whereas enslaved African-Americans toiled in the Aquia Creek sandstone quarry in Stafford County, Virginia and in a marble quarry in Montgomery County, Maryland to produce the stone that would be used in the Capitol;

Whereas the marble columns in the Old Senate Chamber and the sandstone walls of the East Front corridor remain as the lasting legacies of the enslaved African-Americans who worked the quarries;

Whereas enslaved African-Americans also participated in other facets of construction of the Capitol, including carpentry, masonry, carting, rafting, roofing, plastering, glazing, painting, and sawing;

Whereas enslaved African-Americans labored on the Nation’s Capitol while they, themselves, were not free;

Whereas the contributions of enslaved African-Americans in the construction of the Capitol have not been acknowledged nor adequately represented in the Capitol;

Whereas no narrative on the construction of the Capitol that does not include the contributions of enslaved African-Americans can fully and accurately reflect the history of the Capitol; and

Whereas recognition of the contributions of enslaved African-Americans brings to all people of the United States an understanding of the continuing evolution of democracy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate authorizes and directs—

(1) the Senate Commission on Art to procure an appropriate plaque acknowledging the role of enslaved African-Americans in the construction of the Capitol; and

(2) that, under the direction of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, the plaque shall be placed near the original exterior wall that was constructed between 1793 and 1800 in the East Front corridor on the third floor of the Senate wing of the Capitol.