

table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to this matter be placed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1792) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1792

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Investigations of Sex Offenders and Missing Children Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY.

Section 566(e)(1)(B) of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(B) as directed by the Attorney General, investigate—

“(i) fugitive matters, both within and outside the United States; and

“(ii) at the request of another Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, cases involving—

“(I) a sex offender (as defined in section 111 of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (42 U.S.C. 16911)) who violates a sex offender registration requirement; or

“(II) a missing child.”.

INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR VIOLENT CRIMES ACT

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to Calendar No. 233, S. 1793.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1793) to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the statutory authority for the longstanding practice of the Department of Justice of providing investigatory assistance on request of State and local authorities with respect to certain serious violent crimes, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise in support of S. 1793, the Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act of 2012, which I introduced.

This commonsense bill clarifies that—upon the request of appropriate State and local law enforcement officials—select Federal law enforcement agencies may use their unique capabilities to help investigate and respond to mass killings and other violent crimes.

The measure will provide important clarity to Federal law enforcement officers who are called on by State and local counterparts to assist in response to a mass shooting or other violent crime at a college campus, shopping mall, office building, or other public place. Currently, the FBI and select other Federal agencies often provide requested assistance to State and local law enforcement in these types of cases. The absence of an explicit authorizing statute, however, has created concern that agents responding to these violent crimes could be held liable even though their only goal was to protect the public.

This bill makes sure that the FBI, other law enforcement components at

the Justice Department, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Secret Service can provide State and local law enforcement officers with assistance when so requested. In so doing, it will help State and law enforcement protect victims and solve these terrible crimes.

The bill does not expand the jurisdiction of Federal law enforcement agencies. Assistance from a Federal agency must be requested by the State or local authority and agreed to by Federal authorities. And the bill does not impose new criminal penalties or regulations.

The House passed a companion measure, H.R. 207, last year by a vote of 358 to 9. The Senate bill was reported out of the Judiciary Committee last November, and I thank Chairman LEAHY for his leadership in moving this legislation through Committee. Since then, I have worked with Chairman LEAHY, Senator GRASSLEY, Chairman SMITH of the House Judiciary Committee, and Representative GOWDY to improve the bill, and we have reached an agreement that is reflected in a substitute amendment.

I urge colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this measure, so we can ensure that our dedicated law enforcement officials can respond to and solve these tragic crimes.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Whitehouse substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements related to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 3341) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act of 2012”.

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF CERTAIN VIOLENT ACTS, SHOOTINGS, AND MASS KILLINGS.

(a) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 530C(b)(1)(L)(i), by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting “\$3,000,000”; and

(2) in section 530C(b)(1), by adding at the end the following—

“(M)(i) At the request of an appropriate law enforcement official of a State or political subdivision, the Attorney General may assist in the investigation of violent acts and shootings occurring in a place of public use and in the investigation of mass killings and attempted mass killings. Any assistance provided under this subparagraph shall be presumed to be within the scope of Federal office or employment.

“(ii) For purposes of this subparagraph—

“(I) the term ‘mass killings’ means 3 or more killings in a single incident; and

“(II) the term ‘place of public use’ has the meaning given that term under section 2332f(e)(6) of title 18, United States Code.”.

(b) SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—Section 875 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 455) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) INVESTIGATION OF CERTAIN VIOLENT ACTS, SHOOTINGS, AND MASS KILLINGS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the request of an appropriate law enforcement official of a State or political subdivision, the Secretary, through deployment of the Secret Service or United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, may assist in the investigation of violent acts and shootings occurring in a place of public use, and in the investigation of mass killings and attempted mass killings. Any assistance provided by the Secretary under this subsection shall be presumed to be within the scope of Federal office or employment.

“(2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘mass killings’ means 3 or more killings in a single incident; and

“(B) the term ‘place of public use’ has the meaning given that term under section 2332f(e)(6) of title 18, United States Code.”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill (S. 1793) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDING SECTION 1059(e) OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to H.R. 6223.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6223) to amend section 1059(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 to clarify that a period of employment abroad by the Chief of Mission or United States Armed Forces as a translator, interpreter, or in a security-related position in an executive or managerial capacity is to be counted as a period of residence and physical presence in the United States for purposes of qualifying for naturalization, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, in the 111th Congress, I worked closely with Senator LUGAR on two pieces of legislation to improve our immigration laws in small but meaningful ways. My bill, the Refugee Opportunity Act, would provide refugees and asylees more opportunity to become self-sustaining, productive members of their new American communities. Senator LUGAR’s bill, which I was proud to support, would have permitted lawful permanent residents to return, without penalty to their citizenship process, to