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H.R. 329 — Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015, as amended (Rep. Young, R-AK)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on December 7, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 329](#) would consolidate certain federal grants, supporting programs related to employment, training, and education to Indian tribes.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that enacting H.R. 329 would have no significant effect on the federal budget because the legislation would not affect the overall amount of assistance provided by federal agencies to tribes. CBO estimates that any increased federal costs to oversee and administer tribal plans under the bill, which would be subject to appropriation, would not exceed \$500,000 in any year. According to information provided courtesy of the Majority Leader's office, enacting the suspension print of the bill could affect direct spending, but that any such effects would be insignificant in any year. The legislation would not affect revenues.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 329 would amend section 2 of the [Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992](#) (25 U.S.C. 3401) by stating the purpose of the legislation would be to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes and tribal organizations to integrate the employment, training and related services they provide from diverse federal sources in order to improve the effectiveness of those services, reduce joblessness in Indian communities and serve tribally determined goals consistent with the policy of self-determination while reducing administrative, reporting, and accounting costs. The secretary of the Interior would be directed, after approving a plan submitted by an Indian tribe, authorize the Indian tribe to: (1) integrate the programs and federal funds received by the Indian tribe; and (2) coordinate the employment, training, and related services provided with those funds in a consolidated and comprehensive tribal plan.

H.R. 329 would revise the types of programs that may be integrated pursuant to an approved integration plan to include programs related to: job training; welfare to work and tribal work experience; creating or enhancing employment opportunities; skill development; assisting Indian youth and adults to succeed in the workforce; and encouraging self-sufficiency among others. Programs funded by block grant funds provided to an Indian tribe, regardless of whether the block grant is for the benefit of the Indian tribe because of its status or the status of the beneficiaries the grant serves, would be eligible to be integrated into the plan. The Secretary of the Interior would authorize the Indian tribe to coordinate federally funded employment, training, and related services programs and funding in a manner that integrates the programs and funding into a consolidated and comprehensive program.

A plan submitted to the secretary for approval would: (1) identify the programs to be integrated and consolidated; (2) be consistent with the purposes of the legislation; (3) describe a comprehensive strategy identifying the full range of potential employment opportunities on and near the service area of the Indian tribe, as well as the education, training, and related services to be provided to assist Indians to access those employment opportunities; (4) identify the projected expenditures under the plan in a single budget covering all consolidated funds; (5) identify any agency of the Indian tribe to be involved in the delivery of the services integrated under the plan; (6) identify any statutory provisions, regulations, policies, or procedures that the Indian tribe believes need to be waived to implement the plan; and (7) be approved by the governing body of the Indian tribe. The bill would layout specific waiver authority granted to the secretary of the Interior. Upon receipt of a plan from an Indian tribe, the secretary would consult with the head of each federal agency overseeing a program identified in the plan; and the Indian tribe that submitted the plan.

The Secretary would have exclusive authority to approve or disapprove a plan submitted by an Indian tribe. H.R. 329 would further layout the details of the approval or denial process for a plan. If the secretary fails to act within 90 days after receiving the plan, the plan would be considered to be approved.

An Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan would be authorized to use the funds made available for the plan: (1) to place participants in training positions with employers; and (2) to pay the participants a training allowance or wage for a training period of not more than 24 months, which may be nonconsecutive.

The bill would revise the authorities of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in carrying out the legislation to include: (1) the development of a single model report for each Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan to submit to the Director of BIA reports on any consolidated activities undertaken and joint expenditures made under the plan; (2) the provision, directly or through contract, of appropriate voluntary and technical assistance to participating Indian tribes; (3) the development and use of a single monitoring and oversight system for approved plans; and (4) the receipt of all funds covered by a plan.

H.R. 329 would require the Secretary of the Interior, acting through BIA, to enter into an interdepartmental memorandum of agreement providing for the implementation of the legislation. The lead agency would develop and distribute to Indian tribes that have in place an approved plan, a single report format. The bill would further layout the requirements of the report. The report format would not require a participating Indian tribe to report on the expenditure of funds expressed by fund source or single agency code transferred to the Indian tribe under an approved plan but instead would require the Indian tribe to submit a single report on the expenditure of consolidated funds under such plan.

In no case would the amount of federal funds available to an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan be reduced as a result of H.R. 329's enactment; or the approval or implementation of a plan of an Indian tribe. Not later than 30 days after the date of apportionment to the applicable federal agency, the head of an agency overseeing a program identified in a plan would be directed to transfer to the BIA Director for distribution to an Indian tribe any funds identified in the Indian tribe's approved plan. All amounts transferred to a tribe pursuant to an approved plan may be consolidated, reallocated, and re-budgeted as specified in the approved plan to best meet the employment, training, and related needs of the local community served by the Indian tribe. Any funds transferred to an Indian tribe that are not obligated or expended prior to the beginning of the fiscal year after the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated shall remain available for obligation or expenditure without fiscal year limitation. An Indian tribe shall be entitled to recover 100 percent of any indirect costs incurred by the tribe as a result of the transfer of funds to the tribe.

The House report (H. Rept. 114-828) accompanying H.R. 329 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 329 was introduced on January 13, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. On November 16, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported (amended) by the committee.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3."

H.R. 6400 — To revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey (Rep. Pallone, D-NJ)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on December 7, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 6400](#) would modify the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey to increase the size of the [Cliffwood Beach Unit](#) by 125 acres, while making small reductions to other nearby units totaling 10 acres.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may be concerned that the Coastal Barrier System places restrictions on the productive use of federal and privately owned land within the boundaries of the system.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes. The bill would, on net, increase the size of the of the Coastal Barrier System by 115 acres.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 6400 would modify the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey, increasing the total size of the Cliffwood Beach Unit by 125 acres while making small reductions to other nearby units of a total of 10 acres

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 6400 was introduced on November 29, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill." No enumerated clause was listed.

H.R. 3711 — Chicano Park Preservation Act (Rep. Vargas, D-CA)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on December 7, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 3711](#) would require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Chicano Park and its murals located in San Diego, California.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing the legislation would cost \$250,000 over the 2017-2021 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 3711 would require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Chicano Park and its murals located in San Diego, California. The secretary would be directed to: (1) evaluate the national significance of the site; (2) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the site as a National Historic Landmark or Affiliated Area of the National Park System; (3) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of Chicano Park and its murals by federal, state, or local governmental entities, or private and nonprofit organizations; (4) consult with interested federal, state, or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations or any other interested individuals; and (5) identify cost estimates for any development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives. The study would not consider any options that involve federal acquisition of lands, interests in lands, or any other property related to the Chicano Park and its murals. The bill would require the secretary to submit the results of the study to Congress.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 3711 was introduced on October 8, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. On December 5, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported (amended) by the committee.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Clause 2 of Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution, which states: The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging

to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or any particular State.”

H.R.6435 — To authorize the Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with appropriate civilian accreditation entities or appropriate health care evaluation entities to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs (Rep. Mullin, R-OK)

CONTACT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration December 7, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 6435](#) would authorize the Director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network at the VA to contract with an entity specializing in civilian accreditation or health care evaluation to investigate any medical center within the network to assess and report on deficiencies.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not available at this time.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

However, according to the Majority Leader's office, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates this bill would not affect direct spending.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

This bill would authorize the Director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network at the VA to contract with an entity specializing in civilian accreditation or health care evaluation to investigate any medical center within the network to assess and report on deficiencies. The secretary and inspector general would be notified for the purposes of coordinating any investigation.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Mullin on December 5, 2016, and referred to the House Committee Veterans Affairs where it awaits further action.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

H.R. 5099 — CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016, as amended (Rep. Ashford, D-NE)

CONTACT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration December 7, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5099](#) would establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

COST:

According to the [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO), in some instances when VA has accepted facilities as in-kind compensation, the department has explicitly or implicitly committed to making payments from subsequent appropriations for the use of those facilities. Although H.R. 5099 includes provisions that are intended to prevent VA from making similar commitments, CBO believes that in some circumstances VA could still make such commitments under the bill; therefore, estimates that enacting the bill—on a probabilistic basis—would increase direct spending by an insignificant amount.

CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

This bill would authorize the secretary to carry out a pilot program under which the VA could accept up to five donations of real property from a state or local authority, a nonprofit organization, a limited liability corporation, a private entity, or any non-federal government entity. Under current law, the VA is allowed to accept certain donations of land or facilities. The property could be accepted if there are funds appropriated for a facility project, and meets the needs for long-term planning. The secretary is prohibited from providing any funding or fees for the donation.

All entities donating real property must enter into an agreement with the secretary and ensure the property is in compliance with all requirements and use construction standards required by the VA.

According to the [committee report](#) the VA identified upwards of twenty-five to thirty locations where donations from private entities could assist the Department in acquiring a needed facility. One such location is Omaha, Nebraska.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Ashford on April 28, 2016, and referred to the House Committee Veterans Affairs where it was ordered to be reported out, as amended, by voice vote on September 21, 2016.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution. No specific enumerating clause was included.

H.R. 6076 — TREAT Astronauts Act, as amended (Rep. Babin, R-TX)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-0707

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on December 7, under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 6076](#) would require the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Administrator to create a program to medically monitor, diagnose and treat astronauts or payload specialists.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate is not available at this time.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would expand government's authority to fund health services for former government employees for health effects resulting from their employment.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

Human space flight poses significant challenges and risks. Since the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) began human space flight, 24 astronauts have died as a result of space exploration. Astronauts are at an increased risk of impaired vision, behavioral health and performance risks, bone demineralization and galactic cosmic radiation. Microgravity and high levels of radiation can increase the risk of tissue degeneration and cancer, in addition to other adverse health effects. NASA [currently provides](#) monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment for U.S. astronauts while they are employed. However, because the long-term health effects of space exploration are unknown, NASA has requested the authority to continue monitoring, diagnosing and treating astronauts after they are no longer actively employed.

Section 2(b) expresses the sense of Congress that the U.S. should continue to lead in space exploration and that the medical monitoring, diagnosis and treatment described in this bill should not be required of former astronauts or payload specialists, or replace their private insurance. Furthermore, it should only apply to medical conditions unique to astronauts.

S. 6076 amends [51 USC Subtitle II, Chapter 201, Subchapter III](#) by adding a provision that allows the Administrator of NASA to provide for medical monitoring, diagnosis and treatment of conditions that may be associated with human space flight to former U.S. government astronauts or payload specialists. The monitoring, diagnosis and treatment must be provided without a copayment, deductible or other cost sharing requirement, and may be provided by a local health care provider if the former astronaut's or payload specialist's health makes it inadvisable to travel to the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center.

If the costs incurred by the monitoring, diagnosis and treatment of former astronauts or payload specialists are not covered under other provisions of law or contracts, the costs are reimbursable by the Administrator of NASA. However, if payments that are covered under other provisions of law or contracts cannot be made reasonably promptly, conditional payments may be provided.

The Administrator of NASA may not provide for monitoring, diagnosis or treatment for astronauts or payload specialists for conditions that are not associated with human space flight and may not require them to participate in the monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment.

The bill allows the Administrator of NASA to enact regulations to carry out this section. The administrator is also required to submit an annual report detailing the costs of this section and a 5-year budget estimate to the appropriate Congressional committees. The report must be submitted before the president's annual budget request. The administrator is also required to submit an independent cost estimate to the House Committee on Science Space and Technology and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation within 1 year of enactment. A report must also be submitted to the committees detailing potential security and privacy issues of the data collected by this bill within 270 days of enactment. NASA's Inspector General must also audit the activities covered under this section periodically in order to prevent waste, fraud and abuse.

The provisions of this bill would not apply to international partner astronauts.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 6076 was introduced on September 20, 2016, where it was referred to the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology. A Mark-Up Session was held on September 21, where it was reported by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with Indian tribes. And Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

H.R. 5790 — Federal Bureau of Investigation Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2016, as amended (Rep. Chaffetz, R-UT)

CONTACT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration December 7, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5790](#) would expand the list of offices and individuals authorized to receive protected disclosures of waste, fraud, abuse, or specific danger to public health or safety with the goal of enhancing whistleblower protections.

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimated a prior version of this bill cost \$1 million annually.

An updated cost analysis is not yet available; however, the current version of the bill eliminated the expanded reporting requirement that resulted in the cost.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

While the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 created statutory protections for federal employees who disclosed waste, fraud, and abuse, and also prohibited retaliation against those employees for making such disclosures, FBI employees have been exempted from many protections afforded to other federal law enforcement agencies.

This bill would expand the list of offices and individuals authorized to receive protected disclosures of waste, fraud, abuse, or specific danger to public health or safety with the goal of enhancing whistleblower protections. Under current law, only the Attorney General or his designee may receive such information.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Chaffetz and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform where a mark-up was held and the bill was voted out by unanimous consent on September 16, 2016.

Read the committee report [here](#).

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, United States Constitution (Providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States).

House Amendment to S. 2971 — National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act of 2016, as amended (Sen. Portman, R-OH)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on December 7, 2016 under a suspension of the rules which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[House Amendment to S. 2971](#) would amend the [Robert T Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act](#) to direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency to continue their administration of the [National Urban Search and Rescue Response System](#).

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing S. 2971 would cost \$110 million over the 2017-2021 period. The House version includes an amendment to address cut-go, making the annual cost of the legislation consistent with current appropriated amounts.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

In its administration of the system, the Administrator of FEMA would be required to provide for a national network of standardized search and rescue resources to help state and local governments in responding to hazards. The administrator would also be required to designate task forces to participate in the system, each with a sponsoring agency. These task forces may be comprised of more than one participating agency and outside individuals. The administrator would also be required to maintain management and technical teams to administer the system.

FEMA would be permitted to appoint system members into federal service for purposes of their participation, though they will not be considered a federal employee for any other person. This legislation would [codify](#) workers' pay, benefits, and liability and the system's operational requirements. System members with valid government-issued licenses, certificates, or permits would be deemed to be performing federal activities when rendering aid involving a qualified skill.

The administrator would be required, subject to appropriations availability, to enter into annual preparedness cooperative agreements with each sponsoring agency for training, equipment acquisition and maintenance, and medical monitoring. The administrator would also be required to enter into a response cooperative agreement with each sponsoring agency, in which the Administrator would reimburse sponsoring agencies for costs incurred in responding to major disasters or emergencies.

This legislation would require a report to Congress detailing plans to replace system equipment. It would also strike "such sums" language to comply with House protocols.

The Robert T Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act is a law that was designed to help provide federal national disaster relief and assistance for state and local governments in aiding their citizens. The intent was to help state and local governments in creating disaster plans, and to encourage intergovernmental coordination. The National Urban Search and Rescue Response System is a framework for organizing state, local, and federal emergency response teams as task forces, deployed by FEMA to assist state and local governments in search and rescue missions. There are currently 28 FEMA task forces throughout the United States, supporting state and local emergency response.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

S. 2971 was introduced on May 23, 2016 and was passed in the Senate by Unanimous Consent on November 30, 2016.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not yet available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

A Constitutional Authority Statement is not required for Senate legislation.

S. 2846 — Small Business Innovation Protection Act of 2016 (Sen. Peters, D-MI)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-0707

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on December 7, under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[S. 2846](#) would increase intellectual property training and education for small businesses.

COST:

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [cost estimate](#), there are no significant costs to implementing S. 2826. The bill would not increase on-budget deficits or net direct spending in any of the consecutive four 10-year periods beginning 2027 and has no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates.

Any costs incurred by Small Business Development Centers, which are hosted by state agencies, universities and colleges, would be a result of complying with the grants provided by the Small Business Administration.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

S. 2846 would require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to consult with the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to provide training on international and domestic intellectual property protection through a nongovernmental organization and using previously developed training materials. The training sessions could be in person, at USPTO offices, small business development centers or electronically through webinars.

The bill would also amend [15 USC 648\(c\)\(3\)](#) to require small business development centers receiving grants under this section to provide international and intellectual property protection training.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

S. 2846 was introduced in the Senate by Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) on April 25, 2016. It was referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship where it was reported by Senator Vitter.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Bills that originate in the Senate do not require a constitutional authority statement.

H.R. 4298 — Vietnam Helicopter Crew Memorial Act (Rep. Amodei, R-NV)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on December 7, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4298](#) would direct the Secretary of the Army to place a memorial honoring the helicopter pilots and crew members of the Vietnam era in Arlington National Cemetery.

COST:

According to an informal Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate, the impact of the legislation would be net neutral to insignificant savings.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4298 would direct the Secretary of the Army to place a memorial honoring the helicopter pilots and crew members of the Vietnam era in Arlington National Cemetery. The memorial placed would measure 4 feet in height, 5 feet in width, and 1 foot in depth, and would be based on a design approved by the Secretary of the Army and the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association.

The Secretary of the Army would only place a memorial if the Secretary enters into an agreement with the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association under which the Association agrees to pay all costs necessary to construct, install, and maintain the memorial. The Secretary of the Army would additionally approve an appropriate site within Arlington National Cemetery for the memorial. A requirement for an environmental assessment would be waived.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4298 was introduced on December 18, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United

States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

H.R. 6130 — Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016 (Rep. Goodlatte, R-VA)

CONTACT: [Jennifer Weinhart](#), 202-226-0706

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on December 7, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 6130](#) would set a six-year statute of limitations for civil claims to recover artwork and cultural property that was unlawfully lost due to Nazi persecution during the Holocaust.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not yet available.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

During and preceding World War II, Nazis confiscated hundreds of thousands of works of art and cultural items throughout Europe during their persecution of the Jewish population. The United States has actively worked with European nations to recover, trace the provenance of, and repatriate these works of art, returning them to their original owners. Unfortunately, many of these works have not been reunited with their owners or their descendants, and some of the works have turned up in the United States.

In 1998 at the [Washington Conference](#), nations gathered to ensure that, through the Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, steps would quickly be taken to ensure justice in cases where restitution has not been made where an owner can be identified. Congress also passed in 1998, the [Holocaust Victims Redress Act](#), which encouraged a good-faith effort to return works to their rightful owners. Later, in 2009, the United States, along with 45 other nations, issued the [Terezin Declaration](#), to reaffirm the findings of the 1998 conference, and to ensure that each nation's legal system ensure a fair and just solution in relation to Nazi-looted art.

Victims of Nazi persecution and their descendants have filed suits to recover their confiscated art in the United States, however procedural obstacles, including statute of limitations, have made it difficult for the cases to proceed. The only legal action pertaining to the matter that allowed an extension of the statute of limitations for cases of Nazi-looted art was found unconstitutional in the 9th circuit, leaving many of these victims in limbo.

This legislation would allow civil claims or causes of action for artwork and property lost between January 1, 1933 and December 31, 1945 to be commenced within six years after the claimants' discovery of: (1) the

location and identity of the items; and, (2) a possessory interest in the items. This statutory limitation would preempt any other statutes of limitations and defenses that pertain to filing a claim after a passage of time.

Any preexisting claims that were known before the enactment of this bill would be considered discovered on the date of enactment if they were barred before the date of enactment.

This bill would apply to claims that are:

- (1) Pending on the date of enactment, with a provision for actions that still have time to file an appeal; or,
- (2) Filed post-enactment but before 2027.

This legislation would not apply to those claims barred the day before enactment if:

- (1) The claimant knew of the claim on or after January 1, 1999; and,
- (2) Six years have passed from the date of the knowledge of the items, and during that time the claim was not barred by a statute of limitations.

This legislation will sunset on January 1, 2027.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 6130 was introduced on September 22, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not yet available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, section 8, clause 9; article III, section 1, clause 1; and article III, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution, which grant Congress authority over federal courts and article I, section 8, clause 3, which gives Congress the authority to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the States.

H.R. 4919 — Kevin and Avonte’s Law of 2016 (Rep. Smith, R-NJ)

CONTACT: [Jennifer Weinhart](#), 202-226-0706

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on December 7, 2016 under a suspension of the rules which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4919](#) would reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer’s Disease Patient Alert Program, a grant program under the Department of Justice, and would extend it to cover children who have autism, and may exhibit similar wandering behavior.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not available.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

The Missing Alzheimer’s Disease Patient Alert Program was created in 1994, and though it has continued to receive support, it hasn’t been formally reauthorized since 1998. Though the program only covered individuals with Alzheimer’s, this legislation would expand the program to children with autism. Both individuals with autism and with Alzheimer’s Disease are prone to wandering, which could result in dangerous accidents or death.

Avonte Oquend and Kevin Curtis are children with autism who died as a result of wandering away from school or home. In 2014, the Justice Department [announced](#) it would provide funding to school districts for voluntary tracking devices for children that have autism, hoping to avoid similar tragedies.

This legislation would amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer’s Disease Patient Alert Program and to extend the program to cover children with autism or developmental disabilities. The legislation would allow for the awarding of grants to health care agencies, state and local law enforcement, public safety agencies, or non-profits to assist them in creating proactive programs to prevent wandering and locate missing individuals. It will also award grants to similar groups to assist them in designing, creating and operating voluntary locative tracking programs for individuals with dementia or developmental disabilities. The Attorney General may periodically solicit grants by publishing a request for applications in the Federal Register and by posting the request on the Justice Department’s website. Preference for grants would be given to those law enforcement or public safety organizations that work with nonprofits to use person-centered plans, that minimize restrictive interventions and that have a direct connection to families of those that suffer from dementia or developmental disabilities.

This legislation would authorize \$2,000,000 per year for each of FY17 through FY21, which would be fully offset.

All grants would be subject to an audit requirement and accountability requirements for non-profits. It would prohibit the use of more than \$20,000 per grant for hosting or supporting conferences without written authorization. It would require the Deputy Attorney General to submit a report to Congress on any expenditures. It would also require the Attorney General to submit to Congress an annual certification on the completion of the audits and any mandatory exclusions or reimbursements. It would also require the Attorney General to take steps to avoid duplicative grants. If a similar grant is awarded, the Attorney General must submit a report to Congress.

Within two years of enactment, the Attorney General would be required to submit an annual report to Congress on the program, the number of individuals benefited, the number of agencies that applied for funding, the number of agencies that received funding, the number of missing children served, the companies that provided locative tracking technologies, and any recommendations.

This legislation would also amend the [Missing Children's Assistance Act](#), to allow for the provision of technical assistance to law enforcement agencies, state and local governments, and nonprofits for the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases involving children with developmental disabilities.

The legislation would provide privacy protections for those affected by this legislation, requiring the creation of standards and best practices in relation to the use of non-invasive and non-permanent tracking technology. Efforts would be taken to establish procedures to safeguard the privacy of data obtained by the tracking device, restricting access to law enforcement and health agencies as necessary. It would provide for the protection of civil liberties of individuals, and would provide training for law enforcement and considerations for less restrictive alternatives. It would establish a complaint and investigation process for cases of noncompliance. The tracking data obtained would not be permitted to be used by a Federal entity to create a database. All participation in the tracking program would be voluntary.

Finally, the legislation would prohibit the authorization of any funds from being appropriated for an Edward Byrne Memorial criminal justice innovation program.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4919 was introduced on April 12, 2016 and was referred to the House Committees on the Judiciary and on Education and the Workforce.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not yet available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Senate Amendment to H.R. 5602 passed by voice vote on December 5, 2016.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not yet available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

A Constitutional Authority Statement is not available.

H.R. 6431 — Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016 (Rep. Kuster, D-NH)

CONTACT: [Jennifer Weinhart](#), 202-226-0706

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on December 7, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 6431](#) would state that individuals employed by the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice who are stationed or deployed in Canada per an executive agreement, treaty, or bilateral memorandum in relation to a border security initiative, and who commits or conspires to commit an offense that is prosecutable in the United States, must be rightly fined and/or imprisoned for the offense.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not yet available.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

This legislation would ensure U.S. jurisdiction over those individuals who are:

- (1) Employed as a civilian, or as a contractor or an employee of a contractor for DHS or DOJ;
- (2) Present or residing in Canada in connection with their employment; and,
- (3) Not an ordinary resident or national of Canada.

The bill would allow for covered individuals to be prosecuted for criminal acts committed in Canada as though they were committed in the U.S. The measure would include a rule of construction clarifying that the legislation does not prohibit prosecutorial discretion with regard to offenses committed by covered individuals.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 6431 was introduced on December 2, 2016, and was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not yet available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

S. 2854 — Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act of 2016 (Sen. Burr, R-NC)

CONTACT: [Jennifer Weinhart](#), 202-226-0706

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on December 7, 2016 under a structured rule.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[S. 2854](#) would permanently reauthorize the [Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act](#) (Emmett Till Act) and expands Justice Department and FBI responsibilities to include the investigation and subsequent prosecution of violations of criminal civil rights statutes that result in death, without regard to when they occurred.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate was not provided, however this [table](#) indicates no increase in authorization.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

Presently, the Emmett Till Act is set to expire at the close of FY2017 and only encompasses violations that occurred before 1970. The legislation would require the DOJ to coordinate activities with appropriate entities when investigating complaints. It would also require DOJ to create a task force to assist with investigations and to make recommendations to the Justice Department.

It would require a report to Congress from the Justice Department that must include: (1) the number of cases referred by civil rights organizations, higher education institutions, or state and local law enforcement; (2) the number of cases receiving federal charges; (3) the date charges were filed for cases; (4) if DOJ declined to prosecute or investigate a referred case; (5) the outreach, collaboration, and support for prosecutions and investigations of violations; and (6) any activity on reopened cases.

It includes a lengthy Sense of Congress that expresses that all authorities possessing jurisdiction should work together and coordinate information sharing, support the full accounting of all victims of death or disappearance from racially motivated crimes, hold those accountable who committed such crimes, keep families abreast of investigation statuses, and comply with Freedom of Information Act requests and create a publicly accessible repository for such requests.

[Emmett Till](#) was viciously murdered when visiting relatives in the Mississippi Delta in 1955. He was only 14 years of age. The murder was allegedly a response by the husband and half-brother of a woman, with whom Till was conversing in her store. The jury acquitted both men of capital murder after a short deliberation.

The men could constitutionally not be tried again, even though they both admitted to the murder the following year. In 2004, the Justice Department reopened the Till case, sparking a movement to look at unsolved murders from the Civil Rights Era. The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 passed the House in 2007, and was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2008.

An identical House bill can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

S. 2854 was introduced on April 26, 2015 and was agreed to in the Senate by voice vote on July 14, 2016.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not yet available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Constitutional Authority statements are not required for Senate bills.

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