

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statement related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1532) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION IN THE NET 911 IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6946, which was received from the House.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6946) to make a technical correction in the NET 911 Improvement Act of 2008.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 6946) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3646

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3636) to authorize and expedite lease sales within the Outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I now ask for a second reading. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

SUDAN ARMS SALES

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 660 and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 660) condemning ongoing sales of arms to belligerents in Sudan, including the Government of Sudan, and calling for both a cessation of such sales and an expansion of the United Nations embargo on arms sales to Sudan.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the amendment which is at the desk be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 5675) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the resolution)

Strike paragraphs (3) through (5) of the resolving clause and insert the following:

(3) in light of the well-documented existence of arms in Darfur that were transferred from China and Russia and the insistence of the Government of Sudan that it will not abide by the embargo, all United Nations member states should immediately cease all arms sales to the Government of Sudan; and

(4) the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations should use the voice and vote of the United States in the United Nations Security Council to seek an appropriate expansion of the arms embargo imposed by Security Council Resolutions 1556 and 1591.

The resolution (S. Res. 660), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, reads as follows:

(The resolution will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would ask my distinguished friend from Louisiana, the senior Senator from Louisiana, to allow me to conduct some business. It will take a couple of minutes.

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

FEDERAL RAILROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

Mr. REID. I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House with respect to H.R. 2095, the Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, H.R. 2095, an Act to amend title 49, United States Code, to prevent railroad fatalities, injuries, and hazardous materials releases, to authorize the Federal Railroad Safety Administration, and for other purposes, do pass with a House amendment to the Senate amendment.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I move to concur in the House amendment with the Senate amendment to H.R. 2095, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2095, the Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act.

Richard Durbin, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Kay Bailey Hutchison, John Warner, Gordon H. Smith, Olympia J. Snowe, Jim Webb, Jon Tester, Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Frank R. Lautenberg, Charles E. Schumer, Thomas R. Carper, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Benjamin L. Cardin, Byron L. Dorgan, Patty Murray, Daniel K. Inouye.

AMENDMENT NO. 5677

Mr. REID. I now move to concur in the House amendment with the Senate amendment to H.R. 2095 with an amendment which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the House amendment with an amendment numbered 5677.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "2" and insert "1".

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 5678

Mr. REID. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 5678 to amendment No. 5677.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, insert the following: The provisions of this Act shall become effective in 2 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that there be no motions to refer in order during the pendency of this message.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote occur at 12:30 p.m. Monday, September 29, and that the mandatory quorum be waived.

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

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DYSPHAGIA AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 195, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 195) expressing the sense of the Congress that a National Dysphagia Awareness Month should be established.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 195) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREE- MENT—SENATE RESOLUTIONS

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 690, S. Res. 691, S. Res. 692, S. Res. 693, and S. Res. 694.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

CONFLICT BETWEEN RUSSIA AND GEORGIA

The resolution (S. Res. 690) expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the conflict between Russia and Georgia, was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 690

That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) irrespective of the origins of the recent conflict in Georgia, the disproportionate military response by the Russian Federation on the sovereign, internationally recognized territory of Georgia, including the South Ossetian Autonomous Region (referred to in this resolution as “South Ossetia”) and the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia (referred to in this resolution as “Abkhazia”), is in violation of international law and commitments of the Russian Federation;

(2) the actions undertaken by the Government of the Russian Federation in Georgia have diminished its standing in the international community and should lead to a review of existing, developing, and proposed multilateral and bilateral arrangements;

(3) the United States recognizes significant interests in common with the Russian Federation, including combating the proliferation of nuclear weapons and fighting terrorism, and these interests can, over time, serve as the basis for improved long-term relations;

(4) the Government of the Russian Federation should immediately comply with the September 8, 2008, follow-on agreement to the 6-point cease-fire agreement negotiated on August 12, 2008;

(5) the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Georgia should—

(A) refrain from the future use of force to resolve the status of Abkhazia and South Ossetia; and

(B) work with the United States, Europe, and other concerned countries and through the United Nations Security Council, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and other international fora to identify a political settlement that addresses the short-term and long-term status of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, in accordance with prior United Nations Security Council resolutions;

(6) the United States should—

(A) provide humanitarian and economic assistance to Georgia;

(B) seek to improve commercial relations with Georgia; and

(C) working in tandem with the international community, continue to support the development of a strong, vibrant, multiparty democracy in Georgia;

(7) the President should consult with Congress on future security cooperation and assistance to Georgia, as appropriate;

(8) the United States continues to support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization declaration reached at the Bucharest Summit on April 3, 2008; and

(9) the United States should work with the European Union, Georgia, and its neighbors to ensure the free flow of energy to Europe and the operation of key communication and trade routes.

FEED AMERICA DAY

The resolution (S. Res. 691) designating Thursday, November 20, 2008, as “Feed America Day,” was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.
The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 691

Whereas Thanksgiving Day celebrates the spirit of selfless giving and an appreciation for family and friends;

Whereas the spirit of Thanksgiving Day is a virtue upon which the Nation was founded;

Whereas, according to the Department of Agriculture, roughly 35,000,000 people in the United States, including 12,000,000 children, continue to live in households that do not have an adequate supply of food; and

Whereas selfless sacrifice breeds a genuine spirit of thanksgiving, both affirming and restoring fundamental principles in our society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates Thursday, November 20, 2008, as “Feed America Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to sacrifice 2 meals on Feed America Day and to donate the money that they would have spent on food to a religious or charitable organization of their choice for the purpose of feeding the hungry.

NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK

The resolution (S. Res. 692) designating the week of November 9 through November 15, 2008, as “National Veterans Awareness Week” to emphasize the need to develop educational programs regarding the contributions of veterans to the country was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 692

Whereas tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces during the past century;

Whereas the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by the people of the United States;

Whereas the advent of the all-volunteer Armed Forces has resulted in a sharp decline in the number of individuals and families who have had any personal connection with the Armed Forces;

Whereas this reduction in familiarity with the Armed Forces has resulted in a marked decrease in the awareness by young people of the nature and importance of the accomplishments of those who have served in the Armed Forces, despite the current educational efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans service organizations;

Whereas the system of civilian control of the Armed Forces makes it essential that the future leaders of the Nation understand the history of military action and the contributions and sacrifices of those who conduct such actions; and

Whereas in each of the years 2000 through 2007 the Senate has recognized the need to increase the understanding of the contributions of veterans among school-aged children by approving a resolution recognizing the week containing Veterans Day as “National Veterans Awareness Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of November 9 through November 15, 2008, as “National Veterans Awareness Week” for the purpose of emphasizing educational efforts directed at elementary and secondary school students concerning the contributions and sacrifices of veterans; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Veterans Awareness Week with appropriate educational activities.

NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH

The resolution (S. Res. 693) recognizing the month of November 2008 as