

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 173(f)(8) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2918(f)(8)) is amended by striking “February 13, 2011” and inserting “January 1, 2017”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after February 12, 2011.

SEC. 216. EXTENSION OF COBRA BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN TAA-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND PBGC RECIPIENTS.

(a) ERISA AMENDMENTS.—

(1) PBGC RECIPIENTS.—Section 602(2)(A)(v) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1162(2)(A)(v)) is amended by striking “February 12, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(2) TAA-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—Section 602(2)(A)(vi) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1162(2)(A)(vi)) is amended by striking “February 12, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(b) IRC AMENDMENTS.—

(1) PBGC RECIPIENTS.—Section 4980B(f)(2)(B)(i)(V) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “February 12, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(2) TAA-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—Section 4980B(f)(2)(B)(i)(VI) of such Code is amended by striking “February 12, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(c) PHSA AMENDMENTS.—Section 2202(2)(A)(iv) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb-2(2)(A)(iv)) is amended by striking “February 12, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to periods of coverage which would (without regard to the amendments made by this section) end on or after February 13, 2011.

SEC. 217. ADDITION OF COVERAGE THROUGH VOLUNTARY EMPLOYEES' BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 35(e)(1)(K) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “February 13, 2012” and inserting “January 1, 2017”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to coverage months beginning after February 12, 2011.

SEC. 218. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7527(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “February 13, 2011” and inserting “January 1, 2017”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to certificates issued after February 12, 2011.

SA 490. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 782, to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 29, after line 20, insert the following:

SEC. 22. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) FUNDING LIMITATION.—No Federal funds may be obligated by the Secretary of Transportation or any other Federal officer for any study, project, or other effort to carry out the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program until at least 6 months after the Congress receives the reports required under subsections (b) and (c).

(b) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress that contains—

(1) cost projections for carrying out President Obama's goal of building a high-speed

rail system that gives 80 percent of Americans access to high-speed rail by 2036;

(2) the amount of government subsidies that would be needed to operate and maintain each high-speed rail line receiving funding in the first 10 years of operation;

(3) a review of the cost-benefit analysis methods used to evaluate grant requests for high-speed rail projects, including the impact of such analyses on the grant award process;

(4) a review of the accuracy and methodology of the cost estimates of the California High-Speed Rail Authority and the California Legislative Analyst's Office;

(5) a review of the accuracy and methodology of ridership estimates for each grant recipient;

(6) an analysis of the reasons for cost increases of 15 percent or greater since the time the application was received for any grant-recipient project;

(7) the principle reasons behind the decisions by the States of Florida, Wisconsin, and Ohio to return Federal funding for high-speed rail projects in those States; and

(8) a review of—

(A) all high-speed rail projects costing more than \$1,000,000,000 that have been constructed, or proposed for construction, in countries within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and

(B) available data concerning government subsidies for the projects referred to in subparagraph (A), including cost overruns and profitability.

(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall submit a report to Congress regarding Federal grants awarded for high-speed rail projects that includes—

(1) a description of the process by which the Department of Transportation incorporated the volatility of the development, planning, and construction cost estimates into its decision making process when awarding grants and choosing routes and segments;

(2) a description of how the Department of Transportation valued the expected level or potential need for government subsidies to operate and maintain high-speed rail lines receiving funding in the first 10 years of operation;

(3) a review of the cost benefit analysis used by the Department of Transportation when deciding to award the grants and how that analysis influenced the award of Federal funds; and

(4) a review of the impact of the Department of Transportation's decision making process and cost benefit analyses on the high-speed rail grant awards.

SA 491. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. CONRAD) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 141, recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of the GOD'S CHILD project and congratulating the GOD'S CHILD Project on its 20th anniversary; as follows:

On page 3, beginning on line 11, strike “volunteers,” and all that follows through line 13 and insert “volunteers and staff of the GOD'S CHILD project.”

SA 492. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. CONRAD) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 141, recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of the GOD'S CHILD Project and congratulating the GOD'S CHILD Project on its 20th anniversary; as follows:

In the preamble, on page 2, in the first clause, strike “, the hometown of Patrick Atkinson”.

In the preamble, on page 3, in the clause immediately preceding the resolved clause, strike “and Patrick Atkinson have received numerous accolades recognizing their service” and insert “has received numerous accolades recognizing its service”.

SA 493. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 679, to reduce the number of executive positions subject to Senate confirmation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 2(w).

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library will meet on Wednesday, June 22, 2011, at 11:30 a.m., in SC-6 to conduct its organization meeting for the 112th Congress.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Lynden Armstrong at the Rules and Administration Committee on (202) 224-6352.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONGRESS ON PRINTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Joint Committee of Congress on Printing will meet on Wednesday, June 22, 2011, at 11:30 a.m., in SC-6 to conduct its organization meeting for the 112th Congress.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Lynden Armstrong at the Rules and Administration Committee on (202) 224-6352.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 782

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, June 21, when the Senate resumes consideration of S. 782, the Economic Development Revitalization Act, there be up to 10 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 782.

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

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE GOD'S CHILD PROJECT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 141 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. 141) recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of the GOD'S CHILD Project and congratulating the GOD'S CHILD Project on its 20th anniversary.