

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out subsection (b), a State transportation department should consider with respect to the use of commercial enterprises for the delivery of engineering and design services, among other factors—

(1) the long-term value to the taxpayer; and

(2) the need to maintain a competent engineering workforce to provide program management and oversight.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, each State transportation department shall submit to the Secretary a report documenting the extent to which the State uses commercial enterprises for the delivery of engineering and design services for projects carried out under title 23, United States Code, including, at a minimum, a description of—

(1) the number and types of engineering and design activities for which commercial enterprises were used during the year covered by the report; and

(2) the policies or procedures used by the State transportation department to increase the number of engineering and design services for which commercial enterprises were used.

SA 1799. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1761 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1813, to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II of division D, add the following:

SEC. ____ . EXTENSION OF DEDUCTION OF STATE AND LOCAL SALES TAXES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (I) of section 164(b)(5) is amended by striking “January 1, 2012” and inserting “January 1, 2013”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2011.

CALLING FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN IRAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged and the Senate now proceed to consideration of S. Res. 386.

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. 386) calling for free and fair elections in Iran, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolution, and I urge its adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 386) was agreed to.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 386

Whereas democracy, human rights, and civil liberties are universal values and fundamental principles of United States foreign policy;

Whereas an essential element of democratic self-government is for leaders to be chosen and regularly held accountable through elections that are organized and conducted in a manner that is free, fair, inclusive, and consistent with international standards;

Whereas governments whose power does not derive from free and fair elections lack democratic legitimacy;

Whereas the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a signatory to the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted December 16, 1966 (ICCPR), which states that every citizen has the right to vote “at genuine periodic elections” that reflect “the free expression of the will of the electors”;

Whereas the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran regularly violates its obligations under the ICCPR, holding elections that are neither free nor fair nor consistent with international standards;

Whereas elections in Iran are marred by the disqualification of candidates based on their political views; the absence of credible international observers; severe restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, and association, including censorship, surveillance, and disruptions in telecommunications, and the absence of a free media; widespread intimidation and repression of candidates, political parties, and citizens; and systemic electoral fraud and manipulation;

Whereas the last nationwide election held in Iran, on June 12, 2009, was widely condemned inside Iran and throughout the world as neither free nor fair and provoked large-scale peaceful protests throughout Iran;

Whereas, following the June 12, 2009, election, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran responded to peaceful protests with a large-scale campaign of politically motivated violence, intimidation, and repression, including acts of torture, cruel and degrading treatment in detention, rape, executions, extrajudicial killings, and indefinite detention;

Whereas, on December 26, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution denouncing the serious human rights abuses occurring in the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Whereas authorities in Iran continue to hold several candidates from the 2009 election in indefinite detention;

Whereas authorities in Iran have announced that nationwide parliamentary elections will be held on March 2, 2012;

Whereas the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has banned more than 2,200 candidates from participating in the March 2, 2012, elections, including current members of parliament;

Whereas no domestic or international election observers are scheduled to oversee the March 2, 2012, elections;

Whereas the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to hold leading opposition figures under house arrest;

Whereas the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran seeks to prevent the people of Iran from accessing news and information by incarcerating more journalists than any other country in the world, according to a 2011 report from the Committee to Protect Journalists; disrupting access to the Inter-

net, including blocking e-mail and social networking sites and limiting access to foreign news and websites, developing a national Internet that will facilitate government censorship of news and information, and jamming international broadcasts such as the Voice of America’s Persian News Network and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s Radio Farda; and

Whereas opposition groups in Iran have announced they will boycott the March 2, 2012, election because they believe it will be neither free nor fair nor consistent with international standards: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to democracy, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law, including the universal rights of freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, and freedom of association;

(2) expresses support for freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law in Iran, and for elections that are free, fair, and meet international standards, including granting independent international and domestic electoral observers unrestricted access to polling and counting stations;

(3) expresses strong support for the people of Iran in their peaceful calls for a representative and responsive democratic government that respects human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law;

(4) reminds the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran of its obligations under the international covenants to which it is a signatory to hold elections that are free and fair;

(5) condemns the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s widespread human rights violations;

(6) calls on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to respect freedom of expression and association in Iran by—

(A) ending arbitrary detention, torture, and other forms of harassment against media professionals, human rights defenders and activists, and opposition figures, and releasing all individuals detained for exercising universally recognized human rights;

(B) lifting legislative restrictions on freedoms of assembly, association, and expression; and

(C) allowing the Internet to remain free and open and allowing domestic and international media to operate freely;

(7) further calls on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to allow international election monitors to be present for the March 2, 2012, elections; and

(8) urges the President, the Secretary of State, and other world leaders—

(A) to express support for the universal rights and freedoms of the people of Iran, including to democratic self-government;

(B) to broaden engagement with the people of Iran and support efforts in the country to help promote human rights and democratic reform, including by providing appropriate funding to civil society organizations for democracy and governance activities; and

(C) to condemn elections that are not free and fair and that do not meet international standards.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to the provisions of S. Con. Res. 35 (112th Congress), appoints the following Senators to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: the Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID; the Senator from New York, Mr. SCHUMER, and the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER.