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H.R. 4921 — STB Information Security Improvement Act (Rep. Mitchell, R-MI)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-9719

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered April 10, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4921](#) would require the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to develop a plan and timeline to implement the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation's report recommendations.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 4921, would have no significant effect on the federal budget because the Surface Transportation Board has already hired an employee to enact the plan.

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:

H.R. 4921 would require the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to develop a plan and timeline to implement the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation's report [recommendations](#). The recommendations include making improvements to identify, protect, detect, and to recover controls for contingency planning. STB must submit the plan and timeline to the appropriate congressional committees within 180 days of enactment and must also submit an annual report to congress until the implementation is complete. STB is required to designate someone to implement the plan. The bill does not authorize additional funds.

The House Report (H. Rept.-115-622) accompanying H.R. 4921 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4921 was introduced on February 5, 2018. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The bill was marked up on February 14, 2017, and was reported by voice vote.

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 of the United States Constitution".

H.R. 4925 — FRA Safety Data Improvement Act (Rep. Gottheimer, D-NJ)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-9719

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered April 10, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4925](#) would require the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to develop a plan and timeline to implement the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation's audit report [recommendations](#) to improve the FRA's management and collection of railroad safety data.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 4925, would have no significant effect on the federal budget because the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is already in compliance with five of the seven recommendations and CBO expect FRA to be in compliance with the remaining two in 2018.

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:

H.R. 4925 would require the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to develop a plan and timeline to implement the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation's audit report [recommendations](#) to improve the FRA's management and collection of railroad safety data. FRA must submit the plan and timeline to the appropriate congressional committees within 180 days of enactment and must also submit an annual report to congress until the implementation is complete. The bill does not authorize additional funds.

The House Report (H. Rept.-115-623) accompanying H.R. 4925 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4925 was introduced on February 5, 2018. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The bill was marked up on February 14, 2018, and was reported by voice vote.

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 1, Section 8, Clause 3".

H.R. 4203 — Combat Online Predators Act, as amended (Rep. Fitzpatrick, R-PA)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered April 10, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4203](#) would increase the maximum prison sentence by five years for stalking minors under the age of 18.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000 in 2018. CBO expects that any costs to the federal prison system resulting from longer sentences would be incurred after 2022; any such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 4203 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4203 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

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. 4203 would amend [chapter 110A of title 18, United States Code](#) by increasing the maximum imprisonment for stalking to 5 years greater than the maximum term of imprisonment otherwise provided for that offense if the victim is under the age of 18 years. The bill would require the Attorney General to submit a report to Congress, to include an evaluation of Federal, tribal, State, and local efforts to enforce laws relating to stalking; and identify and describe those elements of such efforts that constitute the best practices for the enforcement of such laws

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4203 was introduced on November 1, 2017. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee. On November 2, 2017, the bill was ordered to be reported (amended) by voice vote.

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." No enumerating clause was listed.

H. Res. 128 — Supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia (Rep. Smith, R-NJ)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on April 10, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H. Res. 128](#) would express congressional support for the respect for human rights and encourage inclusive governance in Ethiopia.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

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. Res. 128 would state that the House of Representatives: recognizes and commends Ethiopia's efforts to promote regional peace and security, including through the contribution of peacekeeping forces to regional and United Nations peacekeeping operations; recognizes the importance of continued United States and Ethiopian partnership in combatting terrorism, promoting economic growth and opportunity, and addressing global health challenges; notes with deep concern persistent reports of widespread human rights abuses and the contraction of democratic space in Ethiopia, which may threaten stability and reverse economic progress over the long term; condemns the use of excessive force by Ethiopian security forces, including the killing of unarmed protesters, and the wrongful arrest and detention of journalists, students, activists, and political leaders exercising their constitutional rights to freedom of assembly, association, and expression; recognizes and commends the recent peaceful and voluntary transfer of authority from Prime Minister Hailemariam to new Prime Minister Abiy and welcomes Prime Minister Abiy's inaugural speech calling for open political competition and the defense of fundamental human rights; calls on the Government of Ethiopia to lift the state of emergency; repeal or amend proclamations used as a tool to suppress human rights in Ethiopia, end the use of excessive force by Ethiopian security forces and hold accountable those responsible for killing, torturing, or abusing the human rights of civilians exercising their constitutional rights through fair and public trials; release all activists, journalists, and opposition figures who have been wrongfully imprisoned for exercising their constitutional rights, including those arrested for reporting about public protests; urges protesters in Ethiopia to refrain from the use or incitement of violence in demonstrations; and urges opposition groups and the Government of Ethiopia to directly engage in peaceful discussions to air grievances and broaden political discourse.

The resolution would state that Congress calls on the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to engage in a cooperative effort with the Government of Ethiopia in the formulation of a comprehensive strategy; and stands by the people of Ethiopia and supports their peaceful efforts to increase democratic space and to exercise the rights guaranteed by the Ethiopian Constitution.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H. Res. 128 was introduced on February 15, 2017, and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On [July 27, 2017](#), the bill was ordered to be reported (amended) by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

No constitutional authority is available.

H.R. 2219 — End Banking for Human Traffickers Act of 2017 (Rep. Royce, R-CA)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on April 10, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 2219](#) would add the Secretary of the Treasury as a member of the President's [Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking](#) and would require the task force to recommend methods to combat money laundering related to human trafficking and submit them to Congress.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2018-2022 period to develop the analysis and recommendations required under the bill. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. CBO estimates that reviewing and evaluating the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) procedures would cost \$1 million over the 2018-2020 period. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2219 would decrease revenues by less than \$500,000 over the 2018-2020 period. Because H.R. 2219 would affect direct spending and revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2219 would not significantly increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would expand efforts at the Department of Treasury to combat trafficking.
- **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. 2219 would amend section 105(b) of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 ([22 U.S.C. 7103\(b\)](#)) by adding the Secretary of the Treasury as a member of the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking. The bill would require the Financial Institutions Examination Council, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the private sector, and appropriate law enforcement agencies, to review and enhance training and examinations procedures to improve the capabilities of anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism programs to detect financial transactions relating to severe forms of trafficking in persons; review and enhance procedures for referring potential cases relating to severe forms of trafficking in persons to the appropriate law enforcement agency; and determine, as appropriate, whether requirements for financial institutions are sufficient to detect and deter money laundering relating to severe forms of trafficking in persons.

H.R. 2219 would require the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to submit to Congress an analysis of anti-money laundering efforts of the United States Government and United

States financial institutions relating to severe forms of trafficking in persons; appropriate legislative, administrative, and other recommendations to strengthen efforts against money laundering relating to severe forms of trafficking in persons. Nothing in the bill would be construed to grant rulemaking authority to the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking.

The Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes, would be directed to designate an office within the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (OTFI) to coordinate efforts to combat the illicit financing of severe forms of trafficking in persons with other offices of the Department of the Treasury, and other Federal agencies.

The bill would require the Department of State to report to Congress on the efforts of the United States to eliminate money laundering relating to severe forms of trafficking in persons and the number of investigations, arrests, indictments, and convictions in money laundering cases with a nexus to severe forms of trafficking in persons.

The bill would amend [section 108\(b\) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000](#) (22 U.S.C. 7106(b)) by adding criteria of serious and sustained efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons to include whether the government of the country, consistent with the capacity of the country, has in effect a framework to prevent financial transactions involving the proceeds of severe forms of trafficking in persons, and is taking steps to implement such a framework, including by investigating, prosecuting, convicting, and sentencing individuals who attempt or conduct such transactions.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 2219 was introduced on April 27, 2017, and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On [December 14, 2017](#), the bill was ordered to be reported (amended) 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 I (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce)."

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