

of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth of the Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 91

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3299

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding passage of S. 91, as amended, the Hagerty amendment to the title at the desk be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 3299) to the title was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title to read as follows: "To award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust."

#### SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the senior Senator from Colorado and the majority leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions from September 25, 2024, through September 27, 2024.

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

#### APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and mi-

nority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

#### APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 107-12, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board: Trevor Whipple of Vermont.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and in consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, pursuant to Public Law 103-296, reappoints the following individual as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board: Robert Charles Joondeph of Oregon.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader and the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 110-298, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board: Juan Figueroa of New York.

The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, pursuant to Public Law 117-263, announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as member of the Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Department of State: Jay Snyder of New York.

#### RURAL BROADBAND PROTECTION ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 473, S. 275.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 275) to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with an amendment to strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic as follows:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Rural Broadband Protection Act of 2024".*

#### SEC. 2. VETTING PROCESS FOR PROSPECTIVE HIGH-COST UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND APPLICANTS.

*Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

*"(m) VETTING OF HIGH-COST FUND RECIPIENTS.—*

*"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—*

*"(A) the term 'covered funding' means any new offer of high-cost universal service program funding, including funding provided through a reverse competitive bidding mechanism provided under this section, for the deployment of a broadband-capable network and the provision of supported services over the network; and*

*"(B) the term 'new covered funding award' means an award of covered funding that is made based on an application submitted to the Commission on or after the date on which rules are promulgated under paragraph (2).*

*"(2) COMMISSION RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding to establish a vetting process for applicants for, and other recipients of, a new covered funding award.*

#### *"(3) CONTENTS.—*

*"(A) IN GENERAL.—In promulgating rules under paragraph (2), the Commission shall provide that, consistent with principles of technology neutrality, the Commission will only award covered funding to applicants that can demonstrate that they meet the qualifications in subparagraph (B).*

*"(B) QUALIFICATIONS DESCRIBED.—An applicant for a new covered funding award shall include in the initial application a proposal containing sufficient detail and documentation for the Commission to ascertain that the applicant possesses the technical, financial, and operational capabilities, and has a reasonable business plan, to deploy the proposed network and deliver services with the relevant performance characteristics and requirements defined by the Commission and as pledged by the applicant.*

*"(C) EVALUATION OF PROPOSAL.—The Commission shall evaluate a proposal described in subparagraph (B) against—*

*"(i) reasonable and well-established technical, financial, and operational standards, including the technical standards adopted by the Commission in orders of the Commission relating to Establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection (WC Docket No. 19-195) (or orders of the Commission relating to modernizing any successor collection) for purposes of entities that must report broadband availability coverage; and*

*"(ii) the applicant's history of complying with requirements in Commission and other government broadband deployment funding programs.*

*"(D) PENALTIES FOR PRE-AUTHORIZATION DEFAULTS.—In adopting rules for any new covered funding award, the Commission shall set a penalty for pre-authorization defaults of at least \$9,000 per violation and may not limit the base forfeiture to an amount less than 30 percent of the applicant's total support, unless the Commission demonstrates the need for lower penalties in a particular instance."*

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 275), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.