

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking "section 3(3) of the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1988 (29 U.S.C. 2202(3))" and inserting "section 3 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998".

(b) RESEARCH AND OTHER COVERED ACTIVITIES.—Section 204(b)(3) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended by section 405 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking "the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1988 (29 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.)" and inserting "the Assistive Technology Act of 1998"; and

(2) in subparagraph (G)(i), by striking "the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1988 (29 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.)" and inserting "the Assistive Technology Act of 1998".

(c) PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY.—Section 509(a)(2) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended by section 408 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998) is amended by striking "the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.)" and inserting "the Assistive Technology Act of 1998".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2432.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2432 continues the State Grant Program for assistive technology for individuals with disabilities allowing all 50 States, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories to complete their grant cycle under this Act.

In 1988, the Congress created this program to give States a small Federal incentive to establish State programs to help people with disabilities access assistive technology services and devices. Since that time, all States have established programs that promote the provision of assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities.

However, I do not believe that the program should become a long-term Federal commitment. I believe most States have used this small Federal investment well, and I believe, once our 10-year commitment is met, the Federal government should let States provide these services based on their individual needs.

I know how difficult it is to end Federal assistance once it is started. That is why, in the last 2 years of Federal assistance, we require the States to match 25 percent in the ninth year and 50 percent in the tenth year. By requiring this match, the Federal Government has sent the signal that assistance will phase out and the Federal assistance will end.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in strong support of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998. This Act will enable States and the Federal Government to build upon the work that has been done under the existing Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1998 or the Tech Act.

The Technology Act sunsets this year, and the legislation before the House today will bring our efforts to ensure access to assistive technology into the 21st century.

Under this legislation, States will be able to continue the consumer-responsive programs of technology-related assistance for people with disabilities that have been developed over the past 10 years.

In addition, this bill will help States establish and strengthen systems to inform people with disabilities as to what their technology options are so that they could take advantage of them.

Most importantly, this legislation will establish and expand or loan programs for people with disabilities or their representatives to assess or meet their assistive-technology needs.

Without access to assistive technology, many disabled individuals would be disadvantaged in their ability to successfully compete in today's society.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has gained widespread support from the disability community and deserves to be passed by the House today.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, assistive technology—products designed to maintain or enhance functional capabilities—enables people with disabilities to assume greater control over their lives and contribute more fully to society.

Rapid advancements in technology continue to provide important new tools to help individuals with disabilities become more independent and participate in activities related to home, school, work, and community.

While substantial progress has been made in both the development of new assistive technology devices and in the transfer and adaptation of existing technologies, information on these devices is difficult to find and inconsistent.

This lack of information creates barriers to individuals with disabilities trying to increase their independence and productivity.

The Assistive Technology Act (S. 2432) includes a national, on-line resource and distance learning center for people with disabilities. This bill offers an on-line website for people with disabilities to become aware of assistive technology.

Information provided on the website might include: available devices and services, comparisons of products, distribution points, training support options, as well as maintenance and funding options.

Assistive technology is the key that provides access to employment, education, transportation, and other activities of daily living for many people with disabilities.

Please join me in providing the opportunity to help individuals with disabilities become

more self-sufficient. I urge you to support the Assistive Technology Act.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2432, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and the Workforce be discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 459) to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to extend certain authorizations, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 459

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Native American Programs Act Amendments of 1997".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATIONS OF CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS UNDER THE NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS ACT OF 1974.

Section 816 of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2992d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "for fiscal years 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995." and inserting "for each of fiscal years 1997, 1998, and 1999.";

(2) in subsection (c), by striking "for each of the fiscal years 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996," and inserting "for each of fiscal years 1997, 1998, and 1999,"; and

(3) in subsection (e), by striking " \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 1993 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997." and inserting "such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 1997, 1998, and 1999.".

SEC. 3. NATIVE HAWAIIAN REVOLVING LOAN FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 803A of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2991b-1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking "award grants" and inserting "award a grant"; and

(ii) by striking "use such grants to establish and carry out" and inserting "use that grant to carry out"; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "or loan guarantees" after "make loans";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “loans to a borrower” and inserting “a loan or loan guarantee to a borrower”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Loans made” and inserting “Each loan or loan guarantee made”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “5 years” and inserting “7 years”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “that is 2 percentage” and all that follows through the end of the subparagraph and inserting “that does not exceed a rate equal to the sum of—

“(I) the most recently published prime rate (as published in the newspapers of general circulation in the State of Hawaii before the date on which the loan is made); and

“(II) 3 percentage points.”; and

(3) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “for each of the fiscal years 1992, 1993, and 1994, \$1,000,000” and inserting “for the first full fiscal year, beginning after the date of enactment of the Native American Programs Act Amendments of 1997, such sums as may be necessary”.

AMENDMENTS OFFERED BY MR. GOODLING

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I offer several amendments.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendments offered by Mr. GOODLING:

On page 2, line 3, strike out “1997” and “1998” and insert after 1999, “2000, 2001, and 2002”.

On page 2, line 7, strike out “1997” and “1998” and insert after 1999, “2000, 2001, and 2002”.

On page 2, line 13, strike out “1997” and “1998” and insert after 1999, “2000, 2001, and 2002”.

On page 4, line 4, strike out “for each of the fiscal years”.

On page 4, line 5, strike out “\$1,000,000”.

On page 4, line 6, strike out “for the first fiscal year and all that follows through line 9.

On page 4, line 5, after “inserting”, insert “2000 and 2001.”

Mr. GOODLING (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendments be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) is recognized for 1 hour..

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 459, the Native American Programs Act Amendments of 1997, would continue the important programs operated under the Native American Programs Act. This Act promotes social and economic self-sufficiency among Indian tribes.

Grants under the Act have been used to assist tribes, develop government infrastructure, establish tax, zoning and corporation codes, and provide the regulatory frameworks necessary to attract and retain outside capital investment. In addition to extending these programs through the years 2002, it amends provisions for a Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund to make it self-sufficient and eliminate the need for further appropriations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ).

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am in support of the amendment and find no problem with it.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK).

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 459, the Native American Programs Act.

Authorization for this act expired in 1996, and we were unable to bring an authorization bill to the floor in the last Congress, so I am pleased that we have agreement today and can extend these programs for the next 4 fiscal years.

The Native American Programs Act provides funds to American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Native American Pacific Islanders for projects which help achieve social and economic self-sufficiency among these populations.

We provide about \$34.8 million each year for the Native American Programs Act. This assistance provided since 1974 has been critical in helping tribes to establish their governmental and legal systems and develop environmental and land use policies. It has helped to address the social needs among Native American communities and has increased economic development, job creation and business expansion.

It has also funded projects to preserve the languages of our Native Americans that are in danger of being lost forever. The strength of this program is that each project funded by this act is a community-based effort in which the ideas for solutions of community problems comes from the people themselves.

One such project which is funded under this act is the Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund, which provides low interest loans to native Hawaiians for business creation or expansion.

Originally a demonstration project, the loan fund was developed into an important source of capital for native Hawaiian-run businesses, most of which are small businesses. The loans have funded a wide variety of projects, including agribusiness, construction, retail, tourism, trucking, automotive shops, restaurants, and food outlets.

Access to capital is a real problem for native Hawaiian entrepreneurs. The loan fund has helped to develop viable businesses in our community, create jobs, and contribute to our economy. To date, \$13.8 million has been given out in loans to 308 businesses.

Documentation provided by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, which administers the loan fund, shows that almost 1,000 jobs have been created as a direct result of businesses started and expanded through the loan fund.

S. 459 will authorize the revolving loan fund through the year 2001, and make important changes to the loan fund which will help the fund achieve self-sufficiency, so it will no longer

need annual Federal funding to sustain itself.

I appreciate the work of the chairman, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) and his staff in working out an agreement on this Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund. This agreement will help assure that the loan fund will become self-sufficient and truly revolving in nature, without the need of further assistance from the Federal government.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 459 and these important programs that assist our Native American communities.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendments offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

The amendments were agreed to.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1430

COMMUNITY-DESIGNED CHARTER SCHOOL ACT

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2616) to amend titles VI and X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and expand charter schools, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Charter School Expansion Act of 1998”.

SEC. 2. INNOVATIVE CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7301 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 6201(a) (20 U.S.C. 7331(a))—

(A) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) support for planning, designing, and initial implementation of charter schools as described in part C of title X; and”; and

(2) in section 6301(b) (20 U.S.C. 7351(b))—

(A) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (9); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

“(8) planning, designing, and initial implementation of charter schools as described in part C of title X; and”.

SEC. 3. CHARTER SCHOOLS.

(a) PURPOSE.—Section 10301(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8061(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “planning, program” before “design”; and

(B) by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and