

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 454—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE 108TH CONGRESS SHOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO MAKE DISASTER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR ALL CUSTOMARILY ELIGIBLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AS EMERGENCY SPENDING AND NOT FUNDED BY BUTS TO THE FARM BILL

Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 454

Whereas, agriculture has been the cornerstone of every civilization throughout history and remains the driving force behind the nation's economy;

Whereas, American farmers and ranchers help keep food affordable in this country and also help to feed the world;

Whereas, America's farmers and ranchers produce the food and fiber that is so vital to our economy while protecting our soil, helping to keep our waters clean, and reducing air pollution across the country;

Whereas, all sectors of our country rely in some way on a successful, strong and vibrant agriculture industry;

Whereas, it is the nature of agriculture that farmers and ranchers will suffer production losses because of the vagaries of weather;

Whereas, Congress has responded to natural disasters by providing assistance to those affected including the nation's farmers and rancher to help restore financial stability in times of such losses; and

Whereas, Congress has traditionally provided such assistance on an emergency basis without cutting programs to the class of those suffering.

Resolved, That it is the Sense of the Senate that the 108th Congress should provide the necessary funds to make disaster assistance available for all customarily eligible agricultural producers as emergency spending and not funded by cuts to the farm bill.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4045. Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3981 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. DASCHLE) to the resolution S. Res. 445, to eliminate certain restrictions on service of a Senator on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

SA 4046. Mr. BINGAMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2656, to establish a National Commission on the Quincentennial of the discovery of Florida by Ponce de Leon; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SA 4047. Mr. DOMENICI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1630, to revise the boundary of the Petrified Forest National Park in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4048. Mr. FRIST (for Mr. SPECTER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2485, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and enhance the authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to the management and disposal of real property and facilities, and for other purposes.

SA 4049. Mr. FRIST (for Mr. SPECTER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3936, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the authorization of appropriations for grants to benefit homeless veterans, to improve programs for management and administration of veterans' facilities and health care programs, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4045. Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3981 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. DASCHLE) to the resolution S. Res. 445, to eliminate certain restrictions on service of a Senator on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; as follows:

Page 2, line 10, strike "primarily"
Page 5, line 20 and 21, strike "Ranking Member" and insert "Vice Chairman"
Page 4, lines 9 through 13, strike.
At the end of Section 101(b)(1) insert the following: "The jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs in this paragraph shall supersede the jurisdiction of any other committee of the Senate provided in the rules of the Senate."

SA 4046. Mr. BINGAMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2656, to establish a National Commission on the Quincentennial of the discovery of Florida by Ponce de Leon; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ponce de Leon Discovery of Florida Quincentennial Commission Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the National Commission on the Quincentennial of the discovery of Florida by Ponce de Leon established under section 3(a).

(2) GOVERNOR.—The term "Governor" means the Governor of the State of Florida.

(3) QUINCENTENNIAL.—The term "Quincentennial" means the 500th anniversary of the discovery of Florida by Ponce de Leon.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission to be known as the "National Commission on the Quincentennial of the discovery of Florida by Ponce de Leon".

(b) DUTIES.—The Commission shall plan, encourage, coordinate, and conduct the commemoration of the Quincentennial.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 10 members, including—

(A) 2 members, to be appointed by the President, on the recommendation of the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(B) 2 members, to be appointed by the President, on the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and

(C) 4 members, to be appointed by the President, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Governor, the Director of the National Park Service, and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

(2) CRITERIA.—A member of the Commission shall be chosen from among individuals that have demonstrated a strong sense of public service, expertise in the appropriate professions, scholarship, and abilities likely to contribute to the fulfillment of the duties of the Commission.

(3) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the members of the Commission described in paragraph (1) shall be appointed.

(d) TERM; VACANCIES.—

(1) TERM.—A member shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(2) VACANCY.—A vacancy on the Commission—

(A) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(B) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(e) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(f) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet annually at the call of the co-chairpersons described under subsection (h).

(g) QUORUM.—A quorum of the Commission for decision making purposes shall be 5 members, except that a lesser number of members, as determined by the Commission, may conduct meetings.

(h) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—The President shall designate 2 of the members of the Commission as co-chairpersons of the Commission.

SEC. 4. DUTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

(1) plan and develop activities appropriate to commemorate the Quincentennial including a limited number of proposed projects to be undertaken by the appropriate Federal departments and agencies that commemorate the Quincentennial by seeking to harmonize and balance the important goals of ceremony and celebration with the equally important goals of scholarship and education;

(2) consult with and encourage appropriate Federal departments and agencies, State and local governments, Indian tribal governments, elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, foreign governments, and private organizations to organize and participate in Quincentennial activities commemorating or examining—

(A) the history of Florida;

(B) the discovery of Florida;

(C) the life of Ponce de Leon;

(D) the myths surrounding Ponce de Leon's search for gold and for the "fountain of youth";

(E) the exploration of Florida; and

(F) the beginnings of the colonization of North America; and

(3) coordinate activities throughout the United States and internationally that relate to the history and influence of the discovery of Florida.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the President and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a comprehensive report that includes specific recommendations for—

(A) the allocation of financial and administrative responsibility among participating entities and persons with respect to commemoration of the Quincentennial; and

(B) the commemoration of the Quincentennial and related events through programs and activities, including—

(i) the production, publication, and distribution of books, pamphlets, films, electronic publications, and other educational