

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 7:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5117. An act to exempt persons with disabilities from the prohibition against providing section 8 rental assistance to college students.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 860. An act to provide for the conveyance of the reversionary interest of the United States in certain lands to the Clint Independent School District, El Paso County, Texas; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4962. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Pitcher Street in Utica, New York, as the "Captain George A. Wood Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 435. Concurrent resolution congratulating Israel's Magen David Adom Society for achieving full membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 438. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that continuation of the welfare reforms provided for in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 should remain a priority; to the Committee on Finance.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, July 19, 2006, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 3504. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit the solicitation or acceptance of tissue from fetuses gestated for research purposes, and for other purposes.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-347. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Hawaii relative to the authorization and appropriation of funds to allow all members of the armed forces reserve component to access the TRICARE program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 147

Whereas, Army National Guard members are fulfilling commitments in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, and the Sinai, with members of the Hawaii Army National Guard having recently served in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Whereas, presently almost half of all service personnel deployed in Iraq are members of the reserve components of the United States armed forces, including members of the National Guard and Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps Reserves; and

Whereas, under present law, for every ninety day period on active duty, a member of the reserve component receives one year of cost-share TRICARE health benefits if the member agrees to serve that year with a reserve component; and

Whereas, while well-intentioned, this measure does not go far enough to solve the problem of medical readiness that exists in the reserve component and can affect the mobilization and deployment of intact reserve component units; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Congress of the United States is urged to authorize and appropriate funds to allow all members of the reserve component to access TRICARE health benefit coverage on a cost-share basis, without restrictions; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of Defense, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, the Governor, and the Adjutant General.

POM-348. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to taking such actions as are necessary to require a minimum time period for a business to refund an unauthorized overcharge on a debit card; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 208

Whereas, businesses across the Nation engage in the unfair trade practice of overcharging a debit cardholder's account for more than the sales price of goods or services without the cardholder's knowledge and consent; and

Whereas, this practice causes financial harm to debit cardholders by the assessment of overdraft fees and inability to access funds depleted by the overcharged amount; and

Whereas, legislation requiring a minimum time period for refunds by businesses who overcharge a debit cardholder's account without permission should be enacted: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to require a minimum time period for refunds by businesses who overcharge a debit cardholder's account without permission; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-349. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to urging and requesting the attorney general and the legislative auditor to continue to pursue all options necessary to permit the state to have an accurate accounting of assistance for which the state is required to pay a portion of the costs and urging and requesting the Louisiana congressional delegation to support such efforts; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 170

Whereas, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has requested a combined payment of almost one hundred fifty-six million dollars for the state's twenty-five percent share of the six hundred twenty-three mil-

lion dollars spent through November 30, 2005, for Other Needs Assistance to one hundred eighty-one thousand Louisiana citizens affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

Whereas, 44 CFR 206.16 requires the FEMA associate director or regional director to conduct audits and investigations as necessary to assure compliance with the Stafford Act and, for purposes of such audits and investigations, authorizes FEMA or state auditors, the governor's authorized representative, the regional director, the associate director, and the comptroller general of the United States, or their duly authorized representatives to inspect any books, documents, papers, and records of any person relating to any activity undertaken or funded under the Stafford Act; and

Whereas, Attorney General Foti and Legislative Auditor Steve Theriot sent letters dated February 7, 2006, and February 17, 2006, requesting pursuant to 44 CFR 216.16, 206.62(b), and 206.64, source documentation which will allow the legislative auditor to give assurance to the leaders of the state of Louisiana that these monies are, in fact, owing, and due: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the attorney general and the legislative auditor to continue to pursue all options necessary to permit the state to have an accurate accounting of assistance for which the state is required to pay a portion of the costs and to urge and request the Louisiana congressional delegation to support such efforts; be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the members of the Louisiana congressional delegation to support the efforts of the attorney general and the legislative auditor to permit the state to have an accurate accounting of money the Federal Emergency Management Agency claims the state owes; be, it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the attorney general, the legislative auditor, each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and the acting director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

POM-350. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Arizona relative to rejecting attempts to lower the mortgage index deduction in the Internal Revenue Code; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL NO. 1003

Whereas, it has been the federal tax policy since the inception of the Internal Revenue Code to encourage home ownership; and

Whereas, the real estate industry generates 15 to 18 per cent of the gross domestic product, and the housing market has been the most vibrant sector of our state and national economies in the past five years, fueling much of the 2001-2002 economic recovery; and

Whereas, home ownership in Arizona and the United States is at record levels with more than 70 percent of families owning their own homes; and

Whereas, homes are the foundations of our culture, the basis for our community life and the bedrock value of the American dream; and

Whereas, with a low national savings rate and the impending retirement of the baby boom generation, home ownership and its resulting equity growth is in itself a method of savings and capital formation and should be encouraged; and

Whereas, the capital invested in housing and the equity it generates should be preserved for families and is generally the prime savings choice for lower and middle income Americans; and

Whereas, real estate and home ownership is almost always acquired with debt of some sort; and