

EC-3394. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Methamidophos, Oxydemeton-methyl, Profenofos, and Trichlorfon; Tolerance Actions" ((FRL No. 8147-6) (Docket No. EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0261)) received on September 21, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3395. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pyraclostrobin; Pesticide Tolerance" ((FRL No. 8148-6) (Docket No. EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0522)) received on September 21, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3396. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sulfosulfuron; Pesticide Tolerance" ((FRL No. 8147-4) (Docket No. EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0206)) received on September 21, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3397. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendments to Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Correction of Effective Date Under Congressional Review Act" ((FRL No. 8473-1) (Docket No. EPA-R03-OAR-2007-0174)) received on September 21, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3398. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tepaloxymid; Pesticide Tolerance" ((FRL No. 8148-1) (Docket No. EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0145)) received on September 21, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3399. A communication from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requirements for Expanded Definition of Byproduct Material" (RIN3150-AH84) received on September 24, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3400. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological Material from Mali" (RIN1505-AB86) received on September 20, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3401. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological Material from Guatemala" (RIN1505-AB87) received on September 21, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3402. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Child Care and Development Fund; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3403. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch,

Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—October 2007" (Rev. Rul. 2007-63) received on September 20, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3404. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Closing of Determination Letter Program for Adopters of Pre-Approved Defined Contribution Plans" (Announcement 2007-90) received on September 20, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3405. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula" (Rev. Rul. 2007-55) received on September 20, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3406. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hotel Industry Overview Guide" (LMSB-04-0807-054) received on September 24, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3407. A communication from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Annual Report for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3408. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "The Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3409. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2007 to 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3410. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Report on the Necessity and Desirability of Amending the Federal Rules of Evidence to Codify a 'Harm to Child' Exception to the Marital Privileges"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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-229. A resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Armstrong, Pennsylvania, urging Congress to allow federal financial participation for medical benefits to incarcerated individuals until convicted and sentenced; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-230. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of New Hampshire urging Congress to fully fund the federal government's share of special education services in public schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas, since its enactment in 1975, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has helped millions of children with special needs to receive a quality education and to develop to their full capacities; and

Whereas, IDEA has moved children with disabilities out of institutions and into public school classrooms with their peers; and

Whereas, IDEA has helped break down stereotypes and ignorance about people with disabilities, improving the quality of life and economic opportunity for millions of Americans; and

Whereas, when the federal government enacted IDEA, it promised to fund up to 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure in public elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

Whereas, the federal government currently funds, on average, less than 17 percent of the average per pupil expenditure in public elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

Whereas, local school districts and state government end up bearing the largest share of the cost of special education services; and

Whereas, the federal government's failure to adequately fulfill its responsibility to special needs children undermines public support for special education and creates hardship for disabled children and their families; and

Whereas, the general court is currently challenged with the responsibility of defining and funding an adequate education for all children in this state; and

Whereas, these legislative efforts are significantly burdened and constrained by the costs incurred by the federal government's failure to meet its full financial promise under IDEA: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring, That the New Hampshire general court urges the President and the Congress, prior to spending any surplus in the federal budget, to fund 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure in public elementary and secondary schools in the United States as promised under IDEA to ensure that all children, regardless of disability, receive a quality education and are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve; and

That copies of this resolution be forwarded by the senate clerk to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the New Hampshire congressional delegation.

POM-231. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging Congress to restore full funding to the Community Oriented Policing Services program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 125

Whereas, in 1994, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act created the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program and for more than a decade the COPS initiative has awarded more than \$11 billion to over 13,000 agencies across the country; in the last six years, however, the COPS program has suffered numerous cuts in funding, threatening to reverse the improvements in law enforcement credited to the program at a time when national security is a concern at all levels of government; and

Whereas, the recently filed Prosperous and Secure Neighbor Alliance Act of 2007 would allocate \$170 million to the United Mexican States to professionalize the Mexican police force for patrols along the U.S.-Mexico border, sending a significant portion of the limited federal aid available to Mexico, further jeopardizing the efforts of state and local law enforcement agencies that depend on continued funding through the COPS program; and

Whereas, among the initiatives established under the COPS program is the universal hiring program that resulted in the hiring or redeployment of more than 118,000 law enforcement officers in over 12,000 enforcement agencies nationwide and training initiatives

that have helped deliver to more than 340,000 officers classes on topics ranging from ethics to terrorism; in offering grants to implement innovative programs such as these, COPS has played a significant role in reducing the crime rate in many areas of the country; but recent cuts to the program have negatively impacted recipient agencies across the country and specifically along the Texas-Mexico border where Texas law officers are consistently understaffed, underpaid, and overworked; and

Whereas, while the United States must rely on neighboring nations to do their part to maintain border security, it is equally crucial that programs such as COPS continue to receive the funding necessary to provide adequate resources to safeguard our borders and achieve a level of security expected by the American people; unfortunately, sending funds to Mexico and at the same time reducing federal assistance locally substantially imperils this worthy goal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to restore full funding to the Community Oriented Policing Services program to assist Texas law enforcement in patrolling the border before authorizing funding for the police force of the United Mexican States; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-232. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to take such actions as are necessary to research and promote Virtual Command Technology to improve police, emergency medical services, and fire protection; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

Whereas, Virtual Command Technology, the remote viewing of a developing emergency which gives firefighters, EMS professionals, and police officers a virtual presence at the scene, will be of enormous significance to the future security of people and property by giving fire, EMS, and police departments unprecedented knowledge of any developing emergency within seconds of its beginning; and

Whereas, in an emergency, time of response and information about the emergency are crucial for successful mitigation in a fire, health, or security incident; and

Whereas, the use of Virtual Command Technology enables fire, EMS, and police responders to reach the emergency with their critical incident planning and preparation in progress as they gain complete situational awareness of the incident and are able to put mitigation plans in place, then take action immediately upon arrival at the scene; and

Whereas, the advantage of Virtual Command Technology is that first responders can understand a developing emergency and react to it within seconds of the alert, as opposed to conventional technology, which only allows for response upon arrival at the scene; and

Whereas, Virtual Command Technology integrates video with a unique graphic display of alarm activity utilizing a database of building floor plans overlaid with icons representing sensors, detectors, and critical emergency building information; and

Whereas, in a fire emergency, smoke detector and temperature sensor conditions are updated every second, with the change in color showing the observer the nature of the developing emergency and the actual temperature; and

Whereas, in a security emergency, sensor conditions are updated every second, with icons changing color to allow monitoring personnel to locate perpetrators and track movement throughout the facility; and

Whereas, Virtual Command Technology provides crucial information to commanders enabling them to understand the emergency situation, conduct incident planning, and issue instructions while they are en route to a location so that upon arrival, all responders have their assignments and can begin incident mitigation immediately; and

Whereas, commercial, government, public, and private entities are encouraged to consider Virtual Command Technology for their security and fire protection; and

Whereas, in this consideration, the three key elements of Virtual Command Technology should be understood: (1) the protected facility is networked to police, EMS, and fire dispatch centers for immediate notification and visual validation of an emergency; (2) the protected facility is networked to a tactical monitoring station for situational awareness of a developing security incident; and (3) responding units can view the incident remotely utilizing a mobile computer networked to the facility by a broadband wireless connection; and

Whereas, in October 2006 the effectiveness of Virtual Command Technology was demonstrated in a series of comparative tactical exercises that culminated with a joint police and fire department demonstration by the Baton Rouge police and fire departments; and

Whereas, Baton Rouge Fire Chief Ed Smith and Baton Rouge Police Chief Jeff LeDuff endorsed the technology for its safety aspect for their officers and firefighters and its ability to provide real-time information about an emergency for successful mitigation; and

Whereas, using Virtual Command Technology, Baton Rouge police and fire departments experienced a significant performance increase over current response procedures and practices: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to research and promote Virtual Command Technology to improve police, EMS, and fire protection. 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-233. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas expressing its gratitude for the sacrifices made by veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Whereas, military veterans who have served their country honorably and who were promised and have earned health care and benefits from the federal government through the Department of Veterans Affairs are now in need of these benefits; and

Whereas, federal discretionary funding is controlled by the executive branch and the United States Congress through the budget and appropriations process; and

Whereas, direct funding provides the Department of Veterans Affairs with a reliable, predictable, and consistent source of funding to provide timely, efficient, and high-quality health care for our veterans; and

Whereas, currently almost 90 percent of federal health care spending is direct rather than discretionary, and only the funding for health care for active duty military, Native Americans, and veterans is subject to the discretion of the United States Congress; and

Whereas, discretionary funding for health care lags behind both medical inflation and the increased demand for services; for example, the enrollment for veterans' health care increased 134 percent between fiscal years 1996 and 2004 yet funding increased only 34 percent during the same period when adjusted to 1996 dollars; and

Whereas, the Department of Veterans Affairs is the largest integrated health care system in the United States and has four critical health care missions: to provide health care to veterans, to educate and train health care personnel, to conduct medical research, and to serve as a backup to the United States Department of Defense and support communities in times of crisis; and

Whereas, the Department of Veterans Affairs operates 157 hospitals, with at least one in each of the contiguous states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia; and

Whereas, the Department of Veterans Affairs operates more than 850 ambulatory care and community-based outpatient clinics, 132 nursing homes, 42 residential rehabilitation treatment programs, and 88 home care programs; and

Whereas, the Department of Veterans Affairs provides a wide range of specialized services to meet the unique needs of veterans, including spinal cord injury and dysfunction care and rehabilitation, blind rehabilitation, traumatic brain injury care, post-traumatic stress disorder treatment, amputee care and prosthetics programs, mental health and substance abuse programs, and long-term care programs; and

Whereas, the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system is severely underfunded, and had funding for the department's medical programs been allowed to grow proportionately as the system sought to admit newly eligible veterans following the eligibility reform legislation in 1996, the current veterans' health care budget would be approximately \$10 billion more; and

Whereas, in a spirit of bipartisan accommodation, members of the United States Congress should collectively resolve the problem of discretionary funding and jointly fashion an acceptable formula for funding the medical programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby express its profound gratitude for the sacrifices made by veterans, including those suffering from various medical issues resulting from injuries that occurred while serving in the United States Armed Forces at home or abroad; and, be it further

Resolved, That the legislature hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to support legislation for veterans' health care budget reform to allow assured funding; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the secretary of veterans affairs, to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-234. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging Congress to authorize the Department of

Veterans Affairs to convey the Thomas T. Connally Medical Center to the State of Texas; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46

Whereas, the Thomas T. Connally Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center was a fundamental part of the City of Marlin, Texas, for more than 50 years, and its recent closure dealt a significant blow to the community and surrounding area; and

Whereas, the beginning in 1943, the citizens of Marlin organized a campaign to secure their city as the location for a proposed naval medical facility; initially, 31 individual contributors donated \$2,025 to finance their preliminary effort, and two years later, the city raised an additional \$25,000 in small contributions from the local citizenry to purchase 150 acres of land for a new naval hospital; and

Whereas, although Marlin's selection as the site for the hospital had been announced in 1944, and the order approving construction of the new 500-bed facility was signed by President Harry S. Truman on July 1, 1945, congressional funding for the project was omitted from appropriations legislation later that year; and

Whereas, undeterred, the residents focused on attracting a 200-bed Veterans Administration general and surgical hospital and collected additional funds for the purchase of eight acres to donate for the facility; the city's efforts came to fruition when the Marlin Veterans Administration Hospital opened on November 1, 1950, with a staff of 14 physicians, 42 nurses, and two dentists; during its 50 years of operation, the hospital provided hundreds of jobs to area residents, continuing to reward the community's early faith and determination; and

Whereas, in 1992, the facility was renamed the Thomas T. Connally Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center after United States Senator Connally, who championed the city's efforts to have the hospital located in Marlin; regrettably, the medical center has since been closed by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and there currently are no plans for its reuse despite a recent extensive remodeling; and

Whereas, although the center's closure was a major economic loss to the residents of Marlin, the city's spirit and goodwill have yet to waver; in the aftermath of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, Marlin opened the Connally Veterans Administration Medical Center to house medically fragile evacuees from the affected areas, but, with that notable exception, the complex has sat empty and will likely be razed if a permanent use for the center cannot be found; and

Whereas, fortunately, the Connally Veterans Administration Medical Center facilities can be easily converted for a number of uses by the state, presenting a practical and beneficial use for the idle buildings; precedent for the adaptation of a Veterans Administration facility to state use was established in 2001 when the United States Congress authorized the conveyance, without consideration, of all real property and improvements associated with the Fort Lyon Veterans Administration Medical Center in Las Animas, Colorado, to the state of Colorado; and

Whereas, elected officials from Falls County and the City of Marlin, as well as many civic leaders, have expressed their support for the reuse of the Connally Veterans Administration Medical Center, and given the City of Marlin's long history with the site and the fact that it would cost more to destroy the center than to convey the facility to the State of Texas, it is only fitting that the state take advantage of this available resource: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to authorize the secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to convey the Thomas T. Connally Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center located in Marlin, Texas, to the State of Texas; and, be it further

Resolved, that the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate of the United States Congress, to all members of the Texas delegation to the Congress, and to the Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2087. A bill to amend certain laws relating to Native Americans to make technical corrections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 2088. A bill to place reasonable limitations on the use of National Security Letters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 2089. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the coverage gap in prescription drug coverage under part D of such title based on savings to the Medicare program resulting from the negotiation of prescription drug prices; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. AKAKA (by request):

S. 2090. A bill to protect privacy and security concerns in court records; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. AKAKA (by request):

S. 2091. A bill to increase the number of the court's active judges; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. OBAMA):

S. 2092. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to improve protections for employees and retirees in business bankruptcies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2093. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers in the State of Vermont for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. Res. 330. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the degrada-

tion of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea and welcoming cooperation between the peoples of Israel, Jordan, and Palestine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. Res. 331. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Turkey should end its military occupation of the Republic of Cyprus, particularly because Turkey's pretext has been refuted by over 13,000,000 crossings of the divide by Turkish-Cypriots and Greek Cypriots into each other's communities without incident; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 65

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to modify the age-60 standard for certain pilots and for other purposes.

S. 305

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 305, a bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to make it unlawful for a packer to own, feed, or control livestock intended for slaughter.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) were added as cosponsors of S. 773, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 790

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 790, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to permit the simplified summer food programs to be carried out in all States and by all service institutions.

S. 819

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 819, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts for charitable purposes.

S. 1105

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1105, a bill to provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, and for other purposes.

S. 1232

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1232, a bill to direct the Secretary of