

Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2585. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of rule (RIN1218-AA71); to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2586. A communication from the Director of the ADEA Division of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2587. A communication from the Labor Member of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, the report of Dissent of Labor of the Board concerning majority of the Board's proposal to amend the Railroad Retirement Act to change the state of limitations that applies to the creditability of compensation under the Act; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 1579. A bill to streamline and improve the effectiveness of chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Single Audit Act") (Rept. No. 104-266).

By Mr. THURMOND, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. 1745. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-267).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1025. A bill to provide for the exchange of certain federally owned lands and mineral interests therein, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-268).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany the bill (S. 1624) to reauthorize the Hate Crime Statistics Act, and for other purposes (Rpt. 104-269).

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 3074. A bill to amend the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act of 1985 to provide the President with additional proclamation authority with respect to articles of the West Bank or Gaza Strip or a qualifying industrial zone (Rept. No. 104-270).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI, and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. 1743. A bill to provide temporary emergency livestock feed assistance for certain producers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1744. A bill to permit duty free treatment for certain structures, parts, and com-

ponents used in the Gemini Telescope Project; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 1745. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. GRAMM:

S. 1746. A bill to correct the marking requirements for American-made hand tools; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAMM (for himself and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN):

S. 1747. A bill to correct the marking requirements for American-made feather and down-filled products; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SIMPSON (by request):

S. 1748. A bill to permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reorganize the Veterans Health Administration notwithstanding the notice and wait requirements of section 510 of title 38, United States Code, and to amend title 38, United States Code, to facilitate the reorganization of the headquarters of the Veterans Health Administration; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S. 1749. A bill to amend title 38, sections 8101(2) and 8109(h)(3)(B), United States Code, to delete the references therein to "working drawings" and substitute therefor the words "construction documents," and to further delete the references therein to "preliminary plans" and to substitute therefor the words "design development.;" to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S. 1750. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify disbursement agreement authority to include residents and interns serving in any Department facility providing hospital care or medical services; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S. 1751. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the procedures for providing claimants and their representatives with copies of Board of Veterans' Appeals decisions and to protect the right of claimants to appoint veterans' service organizations as their representatives in claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S. 1752. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt full-time registered nurses, physician assistants, and expanded-function dental auxiliaries from restrictions on remunerated outside professional activities; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S. 1753. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to suspend a special pay agreement for physicians and dentists who enter residency training programs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. 1743. A bill to provide temporary emergency livestock feed assistance for certain producers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

THE TEMPORARY EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK FEED ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1996

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, my home State of New Mexico is currently experiencing a very severe drought, as

is much of the Southwest. As with any drought, many of my State's citizens are experiencing severe hardships.

Saturday, 2 days ago, I saw what fire had done to the Carson National Forest in my State. This is one of several major fires that New Mexico has experienced this year. The fire in the Carson National Forest was designated the Hondo fire. To date, over 20,000 acres have burned in our State. People have been burned out of their homes, Bandelier National Monument, Questa, Red River, NM, have all had their existence threatened, and the community of La Lama in northern New Mexico has been utterly destroyed.

The size of these fires can be directly attributed to the lack of rain in our State for a very long period of time. And if the current weather conditions continue and no relief is in sight, the rest of this year will be tense and dangerous.

Mr. President, I am here today to talk about another danger that is posed by this same lack of rain, and it is a threat to the finances and the livelihood of those who depend on the rain to make the grass that feeds their herds.

The bill that I am introducing today along with my cosponsors, Senator DOMENICI and Senator DASCHLE, is entitled the "Temporary Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Act of 1996." It is intended to help those ranchers who otherwise cannot afford to feed their cattle during this time of drought. With terrible range conditions, the options available to a rancher have become very limited.

The rancher can either buy feed or he can sell the livestock that he owns at market prices. Neither option is very desirable at this time. Feed prices are extremely high, and cattle prices are the lowest that they have been for over a decade. The situation places the rancher in dire straits. In Lea County in southeastern New Mexico, ranchers usually budget about \$125 to raise a cow. Now the cost has risen to about \$250 to \$300 per head because of the high cost of feed.

In Curry County on the eastern side of New Mexico, the local paper reported that winter wheat crop faces an 80 to 90 percent loss. That crop is usually about 2.5 million bushels that are harvested. All parts of New Mexico are suffering. For the third year in a row, we have had less than our average rainfall in the northwest part of the State. Near Window Rock, AZ, we had 2.1 inches of precipitation during the period from October to March, the driest for that period since the year 1904. In the western part of our State, in Quay County, we have reported much less than average amounts of rainfall. In the south, Las Cruces usually receives about 8.5 inches a year, which I know would be a drought for most parts of the country even if we were to receive that, but for the past 3 years Las Cruces has consistently received less than that amount.