

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 48

"Whereas, the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission employees an impressive variety of television and radio broadcast and non-broadcast technologies to serve the residents of this state; and

"Whereas, the commission is a major cultural and educational resource serving and unifying Nebraska residents of all ages and locations; and

"Whereas, the commission is widely recognized as both the pioneer employer of educational communications technologies and one of the premiere statewide educational and public telecommunications systems in the United States; and

"Whereas, the Commission assists every Nebraska educational sector and institution, public and private, in providing quality teaching and learning and making education more readily accessible; and

"Whereas, the commission brings a wide variety of national, international, and Nebraska-produced programs to the schools and homes of the state, as well as repeatedly brings national recognition to Nebraska; and

"Whereas, the commission is the only entity, public or private, with both the capability to provide picture and sound throughout Nebraska and the responsibility to employ that capacity to pursue educational equity, maintain educational quality, and provide responsible and constructive programming for the people of Nebraska; and

"Whereas, the commission provides on a daily basis children's, cultural, public affairs, informational, and distance-learning programs of impressive substance and quality; and

"Whereas, the commission employs an appropriate and interdependent mix of state, federal, and private funding to address this important mission on behalf of the people of Nebraska; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Members of the ninety-fourth Legislative of Nebraska, first session:

"1. That the Legislative commends the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission for forty years of exemplary service, and urges the Congress of the United States, in partnership with the people of Nebraska, to continue critical support of educational and public telecommunications and the national public broadcasting organizations providing programs of significant quality to rural and urban residents alike, which are of particular importance as Nebraska and the nation move increasingly into the information age and the next century.

"2. That the Clerk of the Legislative transmit a copy of this resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and President of the Senate of the Congress of the United States, to all members of the Nebraska delegation to the Congress of the United States, and to the President of the United States with the request that it be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States."

POM-50. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey; to the Committee on Armed Services.

"Whereas, Picatinny Arsenal at Dover, New Jersey, traces its roots to the "middle Forge" which was established in 1749 at the foot of Picatinny Peak and later became part of the Mount Hope Iron Works, which provided cannon shot, bar iron, shovels and axes for the Revolutionary Army; and

"Whereas, the Army purchased the site and established the Picatinny Powder Depot in 1880 when the War Department needed a location which to construct a black powder magazine; and

"Whereas, Picatinny Arsenal produced high explosives and ammunition from 1902

until 1977, when its role as an arsenal changed from manufacturing to research and development; and

"Whereas, Picatinny Arsenal is the United States Army's principal research, development and engineering facility for assigned weapon systems, responsible for developing 90 percent of the Army's weaponry; and

"Whereas, the Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) at Picatinny Arsenal has assignments which include artillery, infantry, surface vehicle mounted and aircraft mounted weapons and ammunition; rocket and missile warhead sections; fire control systems; demolition munitions; mines, bombs and grenades, pyrotechnic systems and munitions; explosives and propellants; and practice and training munitions; and

"Whereas, for the past four years, ARDEC management has downsized and reduced operating costs while retaining core capabilities and the ability to expand to accommodate new missions or to respond to national emergencies; and

"Whereas, Picatinny is staffed by more than 5,000 civilian engineers, scientists and support personnel, with a technical staff of whom more than 30 percent have graduate degrees; and

"Whereas, Picatinny Arsenal has a national mission and represents a unique intellectual community that cannot easily be duplicated; and

"Whereas, if the arsenal is closed, no assurance exists that the functions therein performed can be replaced or will be assumed anywhere else; and

"Whereas, the kind of institutional knowledge located at Picatinny Arsenal is critical because U.S. laws restrict the munitions and weapons marketplace, both domestic and international, deterring industry from substantial investment or retention of staff and facilities in a commodity arena where there is no commercial market; and

"Whereas, Picatinny Arsenal, invaluable to the Nation's defense with its specialized facilities on 6,500 acres, faces possible consolidation or closure as the Department of Defense reduces its budget with another round of base closures; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House urges the President and the Congress of the United States to carefully examine the impact of the closure of the Picatinny Arsenal upon the Nation's defense readiness and to reject such closure.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and every member of Congress elected from this State."

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATFIELD, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 617. An original bill making additional supplemental appropriations and rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and other purposes (Rept. No. 104-17).

By Mr. THURMOND, from the Committee on Armed Services:

Special report entitled: "The Activities of the Committee on Armed Services United States Senate, 103d Congress, First and Second Sessions" (Rept. No. 104-18).

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. BRADLEY (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 611. A bill to authorize extension of time limitation for a FERC-issued hydroelectric license; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. MURKOWSKI):

S. 612. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a hospice care pilot program for the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 613. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct pilot programs in order to evaluate the feasibility of participation of the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system in the health care systems of States that have enacted health care reform; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S. 614. A bill to confer jurisdiction of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims with respect to land claims of Pueblo of Isleta Indian Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 615. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish outpatient medical services for any disability of a former prisoner of war; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 616. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide parity between the United States and certain free trade agreement countries with respect to the exemption for personal and household effects purchased abroad by returning residents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATFIELD:

S. 617. An original bill making additional supplemental appropriations and rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. COATS (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 618. A bill to provide a low-income school choice demonstration program; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

Mr. Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SIMON, Mr. MACK, Mr. BOND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. REID):

S. 619. A bill to phase out the use of mercury in batteries and provide for the efficient and cost-effective collection and recycling or proper disposal of used nickel cadmium batteries, small sealed lead-acid batteries, and certain other batteries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 620. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey, upon request, certain property in Federal reclamation projects to beneficiaries of the projects and to set forth

a distribution scheme for revenues from reclamation project lands; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 621. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Great Western Trail for potential addition to the National Trails System, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, and Mr. ABRAHAM):

S. 622. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to provide that a State containing an ozone nonattainment area that does not significantly contribute to ozone nonattainment in its own area or any other area shall be treated as satisfying certain requirements if the State makes certain submissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 623. A bill to reform habeas corpus procedures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATFIELD:

S. 624. A bill to establish a Science and Mathematics Early Start Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human 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. DOLE:

S. Res. 92. A resolution amending Rule XXV of the Standing Rules; considered and agreed to.

S. Res. 93. A resolution making majority party appointments to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and the Committee on Indian Affairs; considered and agreed to.

S. Res. 94. A resolution making a Majority party appointment; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BRADLEY (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 611. A bill to authorize extension of time limitation for a FERC-issued hydroelectric license; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

FERC-ISSUED LICENSE AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION ACT

• Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, I introduce legislation which would allow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend a license already granted to the Mount Hope pumped storage project. It is my understanding that the FERC has no objection to this extension and that the agency itself would grant the extension, if it were not statutorily prohibited from doing so.

I am very pleased to have Senator LAUTENBERG as a cosponsor on this legislation.

The Mt. Hope project is an advanced pumped-storage hydroelectric plant. It will be constructed on an existing industrial site that has been active for almost 300 years. It will be largely underground, once it is established, and should have a very limited environmental impact.

This project will cost \$1.8 billion to construct and will be financed entirely by the private sector. It is estimated that this single project will create up to 1,300 jobs during construction and provide about \$20 million annually in property taxes.

Mr. President, the project's existing license will expire in August, 1996. When the license was originally requested and granted in the early 1990's, the sponsors presumed that the financing would be complete and construction underway by 1996, as required. Unfortunately, the extended economic recession intervened. Because of the general economic climate and the difficulty of financing any project of this magnitude, the start-up date has slipped.

Normally, I am very hesitant to intervene in any way in a regulatory process. However, since I understand that the FERC has no objections and will support this extension, I am willing to move ahead. I also understand that the Congressman representing this district, Rodney Frelinghuysen, is preparing companion legislation.

When the FERC granted the original license, they required public hearings and an extensive environmental analysis. While I understand that there is substantial local support for this project, this legislation will now be the subject of additional hearings. Before agreeing to move the legislation in the Senate, I will weigh carefully any new comments or concerns about the project and I will be contacting local community members to gauge the level of their enthusiasm and support.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the text of the bill printed following these remarks.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 611

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notwithstanding the time limitation of section 13 of the Federal Power Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, upon the request of the licensee for FERC Project No. 9401 is authorized, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of section 13 and the Commission's procedures under such section, to extend until August 3, 1999, the time required for the licensee to commence the construction of such project. This section shall take effect for the project upon the expiration of the extension (issued by the Commission under section 13) of the period required for commencement of construction of such project. •

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. MURKOWSKI):

S. 612. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a hospice care pilot program for the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

VETERANS' HOSPICE CARE SERVICES ACT

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, in the spirit of strengthening our commitment to provide a comprehensive package of health care benefits to veterans eligible for care in the VA health

care system, I am today introducing a bill that would require VA to conduct a hospice care pilot program to determine how best to provide hospice care services to terminally ill veterans. I am proud that Senators DASCHLE, GRAHAM, and MURKOWSKI have joined with me as original cosponsors. As the number of veterans who are elderly or have terminal illnesses continues to grow, the need and demand for VA hospice care is likely to increase. We must stay ahead of the surge and explore the various ways to provide such care, so our veterans and their families will have the best choices available to them.

Our legislation is derived from S. 1141, which I sponsored and which was incorporated into the committee bill, S. 1030, of the 103d Congress. Though S. 1030 passed the Senate, it did not pass the House. The bill also builds upon S. 1358 of the 102d Congress which Senator GRAHAM introduced on June 24, 1991, and the Senate passed on October 16, 1991.

Although VA has expanded and improved hospice care services over the past 4 years, it continues to fall short of the goals we envisioned. Thus we feel compelled to introduce the Veterans' Hospice Care Services Act of 1995.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Mr. President, this legislation would expand comprehensive VA hospice care programs and promote VA research on hospice care. The bill would amend chapter 17 of title 38 to establish a new subchapter VII, the provisions of which would:

First, require VA, during the period beginning on October 1, 1995, and ending on December 31, 2000, to conduct a pilot program in order to assess the desirability of furnishing hospice care services to terminally ill veterans, and determine the most effective and efficient means of furnishing such services.

Second, require VA to furnish hospice care services under the pilot program to any veteran who has a life expectancy of 1 year or less, as certified by a VA physician and who is entitled to VA hospital care, eligible for and receiving VA hospital or nursing home care, eligible for and receiving care in a community nursing home under a VA contract, or eligible for and receiving care in a State veterans home for which VA is making per diem payments to offset the costs of that care.

Third, specify that the hospice care services that VA must provide to veterans under the pilot program are: The services to which Medicare beneficiaries are entitled under the Medicare's hospice care benefit, and personal care services, including care or services relating to activities of daily living, such as dressing, personal hygiene, feeding, and housekeeping.