

(E) The extent to which such programs prepare veterans for employment in the private sector and in the public sector.

(F) The effectiveness of such programs in assisting veterans in finding employment in the public sector upon their separation from service.

(G) The ways in which such programs could be improved.

(d) **REPORTS.**—(1) Not later than 90 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed under section 701(b)(1), the Commission shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services of the Senate and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and National Security of the House of Representatives a report setting forth a plan for the work of the Commission. The Commission shall develop the plan in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Labor, and the heads of other appropriate departments and agencies of the Government.

(2)(A) Not later than 18 months after the date of the first meeting of the Commission, the Commission shall submit to the committees referred to in paragraph (1), and to the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Labor, a report setting forth the activities, findings, and recommendations of the Commission, including any recommendations for legislative action and administrative action as the Commission considers appropriate.

(B) Not later than 90 days after receiving the report referred to in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly transmit the report to Congress, together with the Secretaries' comments on the report.

SEC. 703. POWERS OF COMMISSION.

(a) **HEARINGS.**—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out the purposes of this title.

(b) **INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—The Commission may secure directly from the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and any other department or agency of the Government such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out its duties under this title. Upon request of the chairman of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information expeditiously to the Commission.

SEC. 704. MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) **POSTAL SERVICES.**—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the Government.

(b) **GIFTS.**—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

(c) **MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**—The Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Labor shall, upon the request of the chairman of the Commission, furnish the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, any administrative and support services as the Commission may require.

SEC. 705. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—Each member of the Commission may be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in performing the duties of the Commission.

(b) **TRAVEL AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—(1) Members and personnel of the Commission may travel on military aircraft, military vehicles, or other military conveyances when travel is necessary in the performance of a duty of the Commission except when the cost of commercial transportation is less expensive.

(2) The members of the Commission may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(c) **STAFF.**—(1) The chairman of the Commission may, without regard to civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director and up to five additional staff members as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties. In appointing an individual as executive director, the chairman shall, to the maximum extent practicable, attempt to appoint an individual who is a veteran. The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(2) The chairman of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the executive director and other staff members may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(d) **DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—Upon request of the chairman of the Commission, the head of any department or agency of the Government may detail, on a non-reimbursable basis, any personnel of the department or agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties.

(e) **PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.**—The chairman of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

SEC. 706. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.

The Commission shall terminate 90 days after the date on which it submits its report under section 702(d)(2).

SEC. 707. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this title:

(1) The term "veterans transition assistance and benefits program" means any program of the Government the purpose of which is—

(A) to assist, by rehabilitation or other means, members of the Armed Forces in readjusting or otherwise making the transition to civilian life upon their separation from service in the Armed Forces; or

(B) to assist veterans in making the transition to civilian life.

(2) The term "Armed Forces" has the meaning given such term in section 101(10) of title 38, United States Code.

(3) The term "veteran" has the meaning given such term in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code.

(4) The term "veterans service organization" means any organization covered by section 5902(a) of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 708. FUNDING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall, upon the request of the chairman of the Commission, make available to the Com-

mission such amounts as the Commission may require to carry out its duties under this title. The Secretary shall make such amounts available from amounts appropriated for the Department of Defense, except that such amounts may not be from amounts appropriated for the transition assistance program (TAP), the Army career alumni program (ACAP), or any similar program.

(b) **AVAILABILITY.**—Any sums made available to the Commission under subsection (a) shall remain available, without fiscal year limitation, until the termination of the Commission.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate amendments to H.R. 3458 and on S. 1711.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment a bill of the House of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

H.R. 3815. An act to make technical corrections and miscellaneous amendments to trade laws.

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL 1993

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on National Security be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4282) to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1993 to make a technical correction relating to the provision of Department of Defense assistance to local education agencies, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, as ranking minority member on the Democratic side, I will not object, but I would like to yield to the gentleman from Virginia to explain the bill, and a number of other Members on both sides are interested in this bill and the explanation.

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the distinguished soldier statesman from Mississippi for allowing me the opportunity to explain why this bill is necessary.

Mr. Speaker, when the 1986 defense authorization bill was enrolled, it was enrolled with a typographical error, in that it made reference to an accompanying section as section 8803(A), when it should have made reference to 8803(A)(1). This bill simply corrects that typographical error.

So if we can get it enacted and signed by the President, the school districts which were supposed to and intended to receive those funds pursuant to the correctly enrolled and passed bill will be able to receive them.

It is purely correcting a typographical error, but a very significant one to the school districts affected.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I want to thank the gentleman for catching this technical error that really affected a number of people.

Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object I yield to the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. SCOTT].

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Mississippi for his hard work and dedication over the years. I would also like to thank my colleague from Virginia, Mr. BATEMAN, for his hard work and diligence in this effort, not only in this effort but over the years for impact aid. It is an extremely important element of funding for education in highly impacted areas.

My colleague from Virginia has worked extremely hard in this area. Having found the mistake, he had even more work to do to get it back in. I want to congratulate the gentleman for a job well done. There are many others, including the gentleman from Texas [Mr. EDWARDS], who have been very diligent in this area, but I especially wanted to thank my colleague from Virginia for his hard work.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. EDWARDS].

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Mississippi, Chairman MONTGOMERY, and once again express my gratitude for his leadership on the national security over the years. We are a stronger Nation because of his service.

I simply wanted to say in my 6 years in the Congress, probably one of the greater privileges I have had has been to work with the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BATEMAN] to fight for the impact aid program. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that along with our Nation's veterans, there could be few groups more deserving in America than the children of military families, children who often have to go to school not knowing whether their mother or father will even be alive at their graduation, children who Christmas after Christmas or season after season have to be with only one part of their family, because the father or mother is serving their country thousands of miles away.

While I am sorry there were some in Washington from both parties last year

who wanted to cut impact aid for these deserving military children, people such as Mr. BATEMAN saw the importance and the value of this program. It not only provides the support for a quality education for military children they deeply deserve; it also is a matter of maintaining quality people in our military, because with an all-volunteer force how can we expect the best and brightest to come into our Armed Forces if we cannot assure them that their children will receive a quality education?

So my thanks once again goes out to the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BATEMAN], who at one point last year very briefly after a momentary health problem, even at some risk to his own health, came to this floor to see that the impact aid program would stay alive, and for that not only I but, far more importantly, millions of American children this year and generations ahead will be in his debt.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I would like to commend the gentleman from Virginia for making this correction for us, and congratulate him on being reelected to the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 4282

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TECHNICAL CORRECTION RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.

Section 386(c)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (Pub. L. 102-484; 20 U.S.C. 7703 note) is amended—

- (1) by striking "section 8003(a)" and inserting "section 8003(a)(1)"; and
- (2) by striking "(20 U.S.C. 7703(a))" and inserting "(20 U.S.C. 7703(a)(1))".

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMPREHENSIVE METHAMPHETAMINE CONTROL ACT OF 1996

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1965) to prevent the illegal manufacturing and use of methamphetamine, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM], the chairman of the subcommittee, for an explanation of the bill.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, just 2 days ago this body voted on H.R. 3852,

the Comprehensive Methamphetamine Control Act of 1996. The bill represents a major, bipartisan effort to respond to the national methamphetamine crisis confronting our nation today. The bill passed by a vote of 386 to 34.

H.R. 3852 is nearly identical to S. 1965, which was passed by the Senate nearly two weeks ago. It was introduced by Senate Judiciary Chairman HATCH and a large, bipartisan group of Senators, including Senators BIDEN, DASCHLE and FEINSTEIN.

The principal difference between the two bills is that the Senate bill lacks the mandatory minimum sentences for methamphetamine trafficking.

Like the House bill, S. 1965 has the support of both the pharmaceutical industry and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

I must say, and I think I speak for the entire law enforcement community when I say, I am disappointed that the Senate did not pass our tougher bill. I am disappointed that those few Members in the other body who opposed the mandatory minimum sentences in our bill did not drop their opposition. And, I am disappointed that the President, who says he supports the mandatory minimums in the House bill, did not call those Members, who are in his own party, and ask them to support these much-needed penalties.

Nevertheless, this is still a good bill. It is a bipartisan bill. It is a vitally important effort that has been worked on by Members of both Houses and both parties. I thank my colleague for yielding.

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Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, I think this is a strong and good bill for a menace, methamphetamine, that is growing exponentially, especially in my own home State of California. The measures, having to do with control of precursor chemicals, will have a significant, positive impact in the reduction of the availability of this drug.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 1965

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Comprehensive Methamphetamine Control Act of 1996".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

TITLE I—IMPORTATION OF METHAMPHETAMINE AND PRECURSOR CHEMICALS

Sec. 101. Support for international efforts to control drugs.