

H.R. 1306. An act to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to clarify the applicability of host State laws to any branch in such State of an out-of-State bank.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1965. A communication from the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Transfer of Offenders" (RIN1120-AA60) received on May 20, 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1966. A communication from the Chairman of the Appraisal Subcommittee, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1967. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Policy, Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Export Requirements"; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-1968. A communication from the Director of the National Legislative Commission of the American Legion, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the financial condition of the American Legion for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1969. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes" (FV97-947-1) received on May 20, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1970. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to amend section 502 of title V of the Housing Act of 1949; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1971. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Suspension of Certain Order Provisions" received on May 20, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1972. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator of Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Interstate Movement of Livestock" received on May 22, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1973. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Policy, Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Medical Devices" received on May 22, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments and with a preamble:

S. Res. 57. A resolution to support the commemoration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 610. A bill to implement the obligations of the United States under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, known as "the Chemical Weapons Convention" and opened for signature and signed by the United States on January 13, 1993.

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 768. A bill for the relief of Michel Christopher Meili, Giuseppina Meili, Mirjam Naomi Meili, and Davide Meili.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

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

Thomas W. Thrash, Jr., of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Alan S. Gold, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Eric L. Clay, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Arthur Gajarsa, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs:

David J. Barram, of California, to be Administrator of General Services.

Mary Ann Gooden Terrell, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

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. REID (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. GLENN):

S. 779. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the number of physicians that complete a fellowship in geriatric medicine and geriatric psychiatry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 780. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to include each year of fellowship training in geriatric medicine or geriatric psychiatry as a year of obligated service under the National Health Corps Loan Repayment Program; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. ENZI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. KEMPTHORNE):

S. 781. A bill to establish a uniform and more efficient Federal process for protecting property owners' rights guaranteed by the

fifth amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 782. A bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to remove the provision that prevents the recovery of an amount disbursed as a result of an erroneous decision made by a State, county, or area committee; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 783. A bill to increase the accessibility of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. D'AMATO (by request):

S. 784. A bill to reform the United States Housing Act of 1937, deregulate the public housing program and the program for rental housing assistance for low-income families, and increase community control over such programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon:

S. 785. A bill to convey certain land to the City of Grants Pass, Oregon; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRYAN (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 786. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey, at fair market value, certain properties in Clark County, Nevada, to persons who purchased adjacent properties in good faith reliance on land surveys that were subsequently determined to be inaccurate; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRAMM (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 787. A bill to permit any state to use non-governmental personnel in the determination of eligibility under the Medicaid, Food Stamps and WIC programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 788. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain materials used in the manufacture of skis and snowboards; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. CHAFFEE):

S. 789. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide medicare beneficiaries with additional information regarding medicare managed care plans and medicare select policies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. 790. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Indian tribes to receive charitable contributions of inventory; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 791. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to the treatment of certain amounts received by a cooperative telephone company; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 792. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that certain cash rentals of farmland will not cause recapture of special estate tax valuation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD:

S. 793. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require that the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment carry out treatment programs for adolescents; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

S. 794. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the grant program for services for children of substance

abusers; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. BREAUX, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 795. A bill to improve the quality of health plans and health care that is provided through the Federal Government and to protect health care consumers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 796. A bill to reduce gun trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CHAFEE (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 797. A bill to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize the design and construction of additions to the parking garage and certain site improvements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 798. A bill to establish a Commission on Information Technology Worker Shortage; 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. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. DODD):

S. Con. Res. 28. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency should take immediate steps to abate emissions of mercury and release to Congress the study of mercury required under the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. GLENN):

S. 779. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the number of physicians that complete a fellowship in geriatric medicine and geriatric psychiatry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

THE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE ACT OF 1997

S. 780. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to include each year of fellowship training in geriatric medicine or geriatric psychiatry as a year of obligated service under the National Health Corps Loan Repayment Program; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE GERIATRICIANS LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT OF 1997

Mr. REID. Good morning Mr. President. I come to the floor today to offer two bills which are written to address the national shortage of geriatricians we are experiencing in this country. A problem I am sorry to say that is getting worse, not better. I am pleased to have as original cosponsors of my bills Senator GRASSLEY, the distinguished

Chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging and Senator GLENN, also a member of the Aging Committee, one for whom I have tremendous respect and regard.

Our Nation is growing older. Today, life expectancy for women is 79, for men it is 73. While the population of the United States has tripled since 1900, the number of people age 65 or older has increased 11 times, to more than 33 million Americans. By 2030, this group is projected to double in size to nearly 70 million.

Mr. President, I first became concerned about this problem when I read a report issued by the Alliance for Aging Research in May of 1996 entitled, "Will you Still Treat Me When I'm 65?" The report concluded that there are only 6,784 primary-care physicians certified in geriatrics. This number represents less than one percent of the total of 684,414 doctors in the United States. The report goes on to state that the United States should have at least 20,000 physicians with geriatric training to provide appropriate care for the current population, and as many as 36,000 geriatricians by the year 2030 when there will be close to 70 million older Americans.

The bills I am introducing today, the Medicare Physician Workforce Improvement Act of 1997 and the Geriatricians Loan Forgiveness Act of 1997, aim—in modest ways and at very modest cost—to encourage an increase in the number of trained doctors seniors of today and tomorrow will need, those with certified training in geriatrics.

One provision of the Medicare Physician Workforce Improvement Act of 1997 will allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to double the payment made to teaching hospitals for geriatric fellows capping the double payment to be provided to a maximum of 400 fellows per year. This is intended to serve as an incentive to teaching hospitals to promote and recruit for geriatric fellows.

Another provision directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to increase the number of certified geriatricians appropriately trained to provide the highest quality care to Medicare beneficiaries in the best and most sensible settings by establishing up to five geriatric medicine training consortia demonstration projects nationwide. In short, allow Medicare to pay for the training of doctors who serve geriatric patients in the settings where this care is so often delivered. Not only in hospitals, but also ambulatory care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, clinics, and day treatment centers.

The second bill I am offering today, The Geriatricians Loan Forgiveness Act of 1997 has but one simple provision. That is to forgive \$20,000 of education debt incurred by medical students for each year of advanced training required to obtain a certificate of added qualifications in geriatric medicine or psychiatry. My bill would count

their fellowship time as obligated service under the National Health Corps Loan Repayment Program.

Mr. President, the graduating medical school class of physicians in 1996 reported they had incurred debts of \$75,000 on average. My bill will offer an incentive to physicians to pursue advanced training in geriatrics by forgiving a small portion of their debt.

Last year Medicare paid out more than \$6.5 billion to teaching hospitals and academic medical centers toward the costs of clinical training and experience needed by physicians after they graduate from medical school. It is ironic, only a tiny fraction of those Medicare dollars are directed to the training of physicians who focus mainly on the needs of the elderly. Of over 100,000 residency and fellowship positions that Medicare supports nationwide, only about 250 are in geriatric medicine and psychiatry programs. Existing slots in geriatric training programs oftentimes go unfilled. With 518 slots available in geriatric medicine and psychiatry in 1996, only 261, barely one-half of them were filled.

By allowing doctors who pursue certification in geriatric medicine to become eligible for loan forgiveness, and by offering an incentive to teaching institutions to promote the availability of fellowships, and recruit geriatric fellows, my bills will provide a measure of incentive for top-notch physicians to pursue fellowship training in this vital area.

We must do more to ensure quality medicine today for our seniors and it is certainly in our best interest to prepare for the future when the number of seniors will double. Geriatric medicine requires special and focused training. Too often, problems in older persons are misdiagnosed, overlooked, or dismissed as the normal result of aging because doctors are not trained to recognize how diseases and impairments might appear differently in the elderly than in younger patients. One need only look at undiagnosed clinical depression in seniors or the consequences of adverse reaction to medicines to see how vital this specialized training really is. This lack of knowledge comes with a cost, in lives lost, and in unnecessary hospitalizations and treatments.

We need trained geriatricians to train new medical students. Of the 108 medical schools reporting for the 1994 to 1995 academic year, only 11 had a separate required course in geriatrics, 53 offered geriatrics as an elective, 96 included geriatrics as part of another required course and one reported not offering geriatrics coursework at all. Mr. President, this is simply not good enough.

In a country where by 2030, 1 in 5 citizens will be over the age of 65, there are only two departments of geriatrics at academic medical centers across the entire country. Yet, every academic medical center has a Department of Pediatrics. This just does not seem to make sense to me. While certainly no