

EC-2383. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of twenty-two rules including a rule relative to safety and security regulations (RIN2115-AA97), received on June 26, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2384. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of four rules including a rule entitled "Acid Rain Program" received on June 26, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2385. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Notice 97-40 received on June 26, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2386. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to "The William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program" (RIN1840-AC43) received on June 26, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2387. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the notice of final funding priorities for fiscal years 1997-1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2388. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the Impact Aid Program (RIN1810-AA84) received on June 26, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

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-147. A resolution adopted by Regional School Board relative to Federal funding under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

POM-148. A petition from citizens of the United States relative to missile testing; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM-149. A resolution adopted by City Council and Mayor of the City of Youngstown, Ohio relative to the national ambient air quality standards; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-150. A resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, California relative to the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-151. A resolution adopted by the City Council of Clarksville, Tennessee relative to the Land Between the Lakes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-152. A resolution adopted by the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments relative to TVA region; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-153. A resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Little Silver, New Jersey relative to the Mud Dump Site; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-154. A resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the Township of Millstone, New Jersey relative to the Mud Dump Site;

to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-155. A resolution adopted by the Township Council of Ocean, Monmouth County, New Jersey relative to the Mud Dump Site; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-156. A resolution adopted by the Borough Council of Avalon, Cape May County, New Jersey relative to the Mud Dump Site; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-157. A resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the Town of Hammonton, New Jersey relative to the Mud Dump Site; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-158. A resolution adopted by the Township Committee of Neptune, New Jersey relative to the Mud Dump Site; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-159. A resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the City of Margate City, New Jersey relative to the Mud Dump Site; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-160. A resolution adopted by the Commissioners of Osborne County, Kansas relative to the English language; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

POM-161. A resolution adopted by City Commissioners of Boyne City, Charlevoix County, Michigan relative to the English language; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

POM-162. A resolution adopted by Board of Commissioners of Lapeer County, Michigan relative to the English language; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. D'AMATO, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with amendments:

S. 621. A bill to repeal the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, to enact the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1997, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-41).

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. BOND:

S. 975. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to extend the bridge discretionary program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BROWNBACK:

S. 976. A bill to reform the financing of Federal elections; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mr. KERRY):

S. 977. A bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and related laws to strengthen the protection of native biodiversity and ban clearcutting on Federal lands, and to designate certain Federal lands as Ancient Forests, Roadless Areas, Watershed Protection Areas, Special Areas, and Federal Boundary Areas where logging and other intrusive activities are prohibited; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 978. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit

for a portion of the expenses of providing dependent care services to employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 979. A bill to provide a tax credit to families with elderly family members living in the family home; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 980. A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to close the United States Army School of the Americas; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. GLENN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROTH, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 981. A bill to provide for analysis of major rules; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 982. A bill to provide for the protection of the flag of the United States and free speech, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 983. A bill to prohibit the sale or other transfer of highly advanced weapons to any country in Latin America; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. MACK, Mr. MCCAIN, and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) (by request):

S. 984. A bill to promote the growth of free enterprise and economic opportunity in the Caribbean Basin region, increase trade and investment between the Caribbean Basin region and the United States, and encourage the adoption by Caribbean Basin countries of policies necessary for participation in the free trade area of the Americas; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. HOLLINGS):

S. 985. A bill to designate the post office located at 194 Ward Street in Paterson, New Jersey, as the "Larry Coby Post Office"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SHELBY (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. MACK, Mr. CLELAND, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S.J. Res. 32. Joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin Compact; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SHELBY (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CLELAND, and Mr. COVERDELL):

S.J. Res. 33. Joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin Compact; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S.J. Res. 34. Joint resolution suspending the certification procedures under section 490(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1991 in order to foster greater multilateral cooperation in international counternarcotics programs; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 104. Resolution to state the sense of the Senate regarding the tax status of payments made as a result of the recent tobacco

liability settlement; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HELMS, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ROBB, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. ROTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. CRAIG):

S. Res. 105. Resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the people of the United States wish the people of Hong Kong good fortune as they embark on their historic transition of sovereignty from Great Britain to the People's Republic of China; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself and Mr. D'AMATO):

S. Con. Res. 35. Concurrent resolution urging the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative postage stamp to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the First Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, NY; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BOND:

S. 975. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to extend the bridge discretionary program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

THE SAFE BRIDGES ACT OF 1997

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, this bill I am introducing today is a bridge discretionary bill. We cannot forget in our reauthorization of the Nation's transportation policy the importance of maintaining our bridges.

Missouri has approximately 23,000 bridges in total.

Unfortunately, the State of Missouri, according to Department of Transportation statistics ranks sixth from the bottom on conditions of bridges in this country. This is a deplorable place for the State of Missouri to be.

We must start taking better care of our roads and bridges and begin building roads for the 21st century—with new technologies, new materials, and better designs.

According to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials America must address the deficiencies of over 11,000 bridges per year just to maintain current levels of condition.

According to the Department of Transportation, the cost to improve bridge conditions would require an annual investment of \$8.9 billion.

Let us not lose the hard-won gains in our transportation infrastructure. Let's not squander our investment.

Postponing taking care of our bridge needs only means that our investment declines and to make repairs later will cost more. The cliché does say "Pay now or pay More later."

Taking care of our transportation infrastructure can be compared to taking care of your home. If you fail to fix the leaky roof, fail to re-paint, fail to adequately insulate, your costs increase and the value of your home declines.

If we fail to maintain and reinvest in our Nation's bridges not only does the

value of our investment decline, but lives are lost and our economic prosperity is jeopardized.

I am pleased to work with my dear friend and House colleague, Congresswoman EMERSON to introduce this bill in both Houses—the Safe Bridges Act of 1997.

The Safe Bridges Act of 1997 is our marker to stress to our colleagues from around the country that bridges are an important and necessary component to this country's transportation system.

Properly maintained and constructed bridges help save lives and provide for the efficient movement of people and goods in this country.

If we want to secure our foundation—we must renew our investment.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 975

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Safe Bridges Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) bridges are important and necessary components of the surface transportation system of the United States;

(2) bridges are an important factor in the efficient movement of people and goods;

(3) properly maintained and constructed bridges help save lives;

(4) more than 25 percent of the bridges on the Interstate System are classified as deficient or in poor condition; and

(5) an investment of more than \$5,000,000,000 annually is needed to maintain the bridges that are in existence as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. BRIDGE DISCRETIONARY PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—Section 144(g) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) DISCRETIONARY BRIDGE PROGRAM.—

“(A) SET ASIDE.—For each fiscal year, before any apportionment is made under subsection (e), the Secretary shall set aside \$500,000,000 from the funds authorized to carry out this section.

“(B) USE OF SET ASIDE.—The amount set aside under subparagraph (A) shall be available for obligation in the same manner and to the same extent as the sums apportioned under subsection (e), except that—

“(i) the amount shall be available for obligation at the discretion of the Secretary;

“(ii) for each fiscal year, \$8,500,000 of the amount shall be available to carry out section 144A;

“(iii) for each fiscal year, \$12,500,000 of the amount shall be available to carry out section 144B;

“(iv) for each fiscal year, \$15,000,000 of the amount shall be available to carry out section 144C; and

“(v) the remainder of the amount shall be available in accordance with paragraph (2).

“(C) OTHER STATE FUNDS.—Funds made available to a State under subparagraph (B) shall not be considered in determining the apportionments and allocations that the State shall be entitled to receive, under the other provisions of this title and other law, of amounts in the Highway Trust Fund.”.

(b) HIGHWAY TIMBER BRIDGE RESEARCH AND CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.—

(1) TRANSFER TO TITLE 23.—Section 1039 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (23 U.S.C. 144 note; 105 Stat. 1990) is—

(A) transferred to title 23, United States Code;

(B) redesignated as section 144A of that title; and

(C) inserted after section 144 of that title.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 144A of title 23, United States Code (as added by paragraph (1)), is amended—

(i) by striking the section heading and inserting the following:

“§ 144A. Highway timber bridge research and construction program”;

(ii) in subsection (e)—

(I) by striking “of title 23, United States Code, for each of fiscal years 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2003”; and

(II) in paragraph (2), by striking “(\$7,000,000 in the case of fiscal year 1992)”; and

(iii) by striking subsection (f).

(B) The analysis for chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 144 the following:

“144A. Highway timber bridge research and construction program.”.

SEC. 4. INNOVATIVE HIGHWAY STEEL BRIDGE RESEARCH AND CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 144A (as added by section 3(b)(1)) the following:

“§ 144B. Innovative highway steel bridge research and construction program

“(a) RESEARCH GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make grants to other Federal agencies, universities, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and research or engineering entities to carry out research concerning—

“(1) the development of new, cost-effective highway steel bridge applications;

“(2) the development of engineering design criteria for steel products and materials for use in highway bridges and structures to improve steel design properties;

“(3) the development of highway steel bridges and structures that will withstand natural disasters;

“(4) the development of products, materials, and systems for use in highway steel bridges that demonstrate new alternatives to current processes and procedures with respect to performance in various environments; and

“(5) rehabilitation measures that demonstrate effective, safe, and reliable methods for the use of steel in rehabilitating highway bridges and structures.

“(b) TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION TRANSFER.—The Secretary shall take such action as is necessary to ensure that the information and technology resulting from research conducted under subsection (a) is made available to State and local transportation departments and other interests as specified by the Secretary.

“(c) CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.—

“(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall make grants to States for projects for the construction of steel bridges and structures on Federal-aid highways.

“(2) APPLICATIONS.—

“(A) SUBMISSION.—A State that desires to receive a grant under this subsection shall submit an application to the Secretary.

“(B) CONTENTS.—The application shall be in such form and contain such information as the Secretary may require by regulation.