

bill of proposed legislation to establish the position of Under Secretary; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2890. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to a schedule of fees to be charged, received on August 27, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2891. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to a change in disease status received on September 2, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2892. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to bartlett pears received on August 26, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2893. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to tart cherries received on August 26, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2894. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to quarantined areas received on August 26, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2895. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to limes received on August 27, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2896. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), the report of the Executive Summary and Annexes to the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2897. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the proliferation of missiles and essential components of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2898. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), the report of a memorandum of justification relative to the Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2899. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules including a rule entitled "The Potato Research and Promotion Plan" (AMS-FV-96-703, CN-97-003, DA-97-09) received on September 5, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2900. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on horse protection enforcement for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2901. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled

"Mid-Session Review of the (Fiscal Year) 1998 Budget"; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, and to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-2902. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, a draft bill of proposed legislation entitled "The Revised Statute (R.S.) 2477 Rights-of-Way Act"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2903. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Compliance, Royalty Management Program, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to make refunds of offshore lease revenues where a refund or recoupment is appropriate; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2904. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Land and Minerals Management), transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Public Land Records" (RIN1004-AC81) received on September 3, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2905. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Fish and Wildlife and Parks), transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to wildlife refuges in Alaska (RIN1018-AD93) received on August 22, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2906. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Fish and Wildlife and Parks), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on Damaged and Threatened National Historic Landmarks for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2907. A communication from the Director of the Reclamation and Enforcement, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "The Indiana Regulatory Program" (IN-127-FOR) received on September 3, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2908. A communication from the Director of the Reclamation and Enforcement, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "The Kentucky Regulatory Program" (KY-211-FOR) received on August 26, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2909. A communication from the Director of the Reclamation and Enforcement, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Coal Moisture Rule" (RIN1029-AB78) received on August 25, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2910. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule relative to conflicts of interest (RIN1991-AB26), received on August 28, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2911. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule relative to certificate requirements (RIN1991-AB31), received on August 28, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2912. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule relative to conservation standards received on August 28, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2913. A communication from the Chief Counsel of the Bureau of the Public Debt, Department of the Treasury, transmitting,

pursuant to law, a rule received on September 3, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2914. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Notice 97-52; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2915. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Changes to the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems and Fiscal Year 1998 Rates" (RIN0938-AH55) received on September 4, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

## 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-224. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Federal Government's program to manage and dispose of spent fuel from the United States nuclear power plants is substantially behind schedule and failure to take appropriate action to enable said Federal Government to take title to and possession of this material in a timely and efficient manner could result in the need to construct and operate one or more long-term spent nuclear fuel storage facilities in Massachusetts and New England; and

Whereas, forty per cent of New England's power is from nuclear plant generation which is the highest percentage for any region in the entire United States; and

Whereas, New England's capability to meet the clean Air Act requirements is highly dependent upon continued availability of our nuclear power plants; and

Whereas, continued operation of our nuclear power plants reduces New England's dependence on the importation of foreign oil; and

Whereas, the Department of Energy is contractually required to begin to take title to and possession of spent fuel on January 31, 1998; and

Whereas, an integrated spent fuel management system is necessary which should include, but not be limited to, four essential components:

A central facility for interim storage until a permanent repository is made available;

A transportation infrastructure for the safe and efficient transfer of spent fuel;

A central repository for permanent deep geological disposal; and

A provision to prioritize the acceptance of spent nuclear fuel from shut down reactor sites; and

Whereas, more than \$12,000,000,000 has been paid into the nuclear waste fund of which over \$1,000,000,000 has been paid by the ratepayers of New England and current congressional budget restraints preclude proper use of the funds consistent with schedule requirements; and

Whereas, legislation to rectify the nuclear waste storage problem have been introduced in this one hundred and fifth session of the United States Congress: Therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Massachusetts House of Representatives respectfully requests that the United States Congress enact legislation to address the problems relative to the disposal of nuclear waste and that members thereof from the Commonwealth take a leadership role in insuring that the financial, energy and environmental interests of the ratepayers of the Commonwealth are protected; and be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded by the clerk of the House of Representatives to the Presiding Officer of each branch of the United States Congress and to the members thereof in this Commonwealth.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. FAIRCLOTH, from the Committee on appropriations, without amendment:

S. 1156. An original bill making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-75).

## 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. REED:

S. 1154. A bill to amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to clarify consumer liability for unauthorized transactions involving debit cards that can be used like credit cards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KERREY:

S. 1155. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to make safety a priority of the Federal-aid highway program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. FAIRCLOTH:

S. 1156.

An original bill making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 1157. A bill disapproving the cancellations transmitted by the President on August 11, 1997, regarding Public Law 105-34; to the Committee on Finance, for not to exceed 7 days of session pursuant to section 1023 of Public Law 93-344.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. BREAUX, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. Res. 119. A resolution to express the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Agriculture should establish a temporary emergency minimum milk price that is equitable to all producers nationwide and that provides price relief to economically distressed milk producers; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. NICKLES (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MACK, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. ROBB, Mr. KOHL, Mr. BIDEN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. REID, Mr. DODD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KERREY,

Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KYL, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ASHCROFT, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 120. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the occasion of the death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta; considered and agreed to.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KERREY:

S. 1155. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to make safety a priority of the Federal-aid highway program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

### THE HIGHWAY SAFETY PRIORITY ACT

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, there is a national health epidemic in America that does not receive the attention it deserves. This epidemic is responsible for the loss of 1.2 million pre-retirement years of life a year; more than is lost to cancer or heart disease. It is the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 15 and 24. Last year, more than 41,900 Americans died from this epidemic and more than 3 million suffered serious injury. In Nebraska alone, the epidemic claimed 293 lives in 1996 up from 254 the year before. The only good news has been that in Nebraska, during the first 6 months of this year, the death rate has slowed slightly. Most tragic, is the fact that this epidemic is almost 100 percent preventable.

This epidemic I am talking about is death and injuries related to driving. While America has made significant progress in reducing traffic accident rates, deaths, and injuries have trended upward in the 1990's.

Traffic accidents impose extraordinary costs on our health care system. About \$14 billion a year in health care costs are attributable to traffic accidents. Taxpayers bear \$11.4 billion of that cost. In terms of lost productivity, property damage and health care costs, these accidents extracted \$150 billion out of the economy for the last year that statistics are available.

The most important point is that traffic accidents are almost completely preventable. The smallest actions of a driver can make the difference between life and death. One lapse in judgment, one moment of inattention can end in tragedy. As drivers, too often, we take for granted the immense power and responsibility we possess when behind the wheel. As public officials we need to be constantly attentive to the need to make our transportation system safer.

The Congress is working on legislation to reauthorize the Nation's basic highway law. It is one of the most important bills the Senate will consider. I strongly believe that we should use this opportunity to commit ourselves to enhancing safety on America's highways and byways. In that spirit, I introduce the Highway Safety Priority Act.

This legislation systematically makes clear that safety is a priority in highway construction and maintenance programs. It sends a strong message to Federal, State, and local transportation planners that they should focus on enhancing safety.

I encourage my colleagues to study and support the Highway Safety Priority Act which I introduce today.

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. 1155

*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 "Highway Safety Priority Act".

### SEC. 2. SAFETY OF FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS.

(a) APPROVAL OF 3R PROJECTS ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM.—Section 106(b)(1) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: "and includes the use of full-width lanes and shoulders".

(b) STANDARDS.—Section 109 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

"(3) SAFETY.—To the maximum extent practicable, a design described in paragraph (1) shall include the use of full-width lanes and shoulders to enhance highway and bridge safety."; and

(2) in subsection (p), by adding at the end the following: "The laws (including regulations, directives, and standards) shall ensure appropriate roadside safety improvements, lane and shoulder widening, alignment and sight distance improvements, and conspicuous traffic control devices and pavement markings.".

(c) CERTIFICATION ACCEPTANCE.—Section 117(b) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", including standards that preserve and enhance the safety and mobility of highway users".

(d) SET ASIDE FOR 4R PROJECTS.—Section 118(c)(2)(B) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: "and that improves safety while reducing congestion".

(e) METROPOLITAN PLANNING.—Section 134 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by inserting "safety and" after "maximize";

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting "safely and" after "more";

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (16) as paragraphs (5) through (17), respectively;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

"(4) The need to prevent accidents involving rail and road users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, and motor vehicles, and to reduce the frequency and severity of such accidents.";

(D) in paragraph (12) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by inserting "safe and" after "enhance the"; and

(E) in paragraph (14) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by inserting "safety," after "economic."; and

(3) in subsection (g)(2)(C)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting "and safety" after "operational"; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting "safety and" after "maximize the".