

Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Class E Airspace Area; El Dorado, KS; Direct Final Rule, Confirmation of Effective Date and Correction; Docket No. 99-ACE-5/4-23 (4-26)" (RIN2120-AA66) (1999-0167), received May 3, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3102. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace and Modification of Class E Airspace; Alpena, MI; Docket No. 99-AGL-11/4-26 (4-26)" (RIN2120-AA66) (1999-0157), received May 3, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3103. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Waverly, OH; Docket No. 99-AGL-79/4-26 (4-26)" (RIN2120-AA66) (1999-0162), received May 3, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3104. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Temporary Restricted Area, Idaho; Docket No. 99-ANM-22/5-4 (5-3)" (RIN2120-AA66) (1999-0168), received May 3, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3105. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of CVG Class B and Revocation of the CVG Class C Airspace Area, KY; Confirmation of Effective Date; Docket No. 93-AWA-5/4-20 (4-22)" (RIN2120-AA66) (1999-0152), received April 22, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3106. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (42); Amdt. No. 1927/4-22 (4-26)" (RIN2120-AA65) (1999-0021), received May 3, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3107. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (44); Amdt. No. 1926/4-27 (4-29)" (RIN2120-AA65) (1999-0022), received May 3, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3108. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Sinaw, MI; Docket No. 99-AGL-9/4-26 (4-26)" (RIN2120-AA66) (1999-0158), received May 3, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3109. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: British Aerospace

Model H.P. 137 Jetstream Mk. 1, Jetstream Series 200, and Jetstream Models 3101 and 3201 Airplanes; Direct Final Rule; Request for Comments; Docket No. 98-CE-70/10-8 (4-22)" (RIN2120-AA64) (1999-0183), received April 22, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3110. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 747-100, -200, -300, SP and SR Series Airplanes; Docket No. 97-NM-272/9-30 (4-22)" (RIN2120-AA64) (1999-0182), received April 22, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3111. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Raytheon Aircraft Company Beech Models A36, B36TC, 58, 58A, C90A, B200, B300, and 1900D Airplanes; Request for Comments; Docket No. 99-CE-11/4-28 (4-29)" (RIN2120-AA64) (1999-0198), received May 3, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3112. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Alexander Schleicher Segelflugzeugbau Model ASK21 Gliders; Direct Final Rule; Request for Comments; Docket No. 98-CE-25/4-26 (4-26)" (RIN2120-AA64) (1999-0184), received May 3, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3113. A communication from the Program Support Specialist, Aircraft Certification Service, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 Series Airplanes; Docket No. 99-NM-100-AD; Amendment 39-11154; AD 99-09-51" (RIN2120-AA64), received May 3, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3114. A communication from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Anchorage Areas/Anchorage Grounds Regulations; Atlantic Ocean off Miami and Miami Beach, Florida (CGD07-99-002)" (RIN2115-AA98) (1999-0001), received April 22, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3115. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interagency Career Transition Assistance for Displaced Former Panama Canal Employees", received May 12, 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3116. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Federal Employees' Overtime Pay Limitation Amendments Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3117. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to life insurance for Federal employees; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

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. TORRICELLI (for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. SARBANES):

S. 1074. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to waive the 24-month waiting period for medicare coverage of individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and to provide medicare coverage of drugs and biologicals used for the treatment of ALS or for the alleviation of symptoms relating to ALS; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1075. A bill to promote research to identify and evaluate the health effects of silicone breast implants, and to insure that women and their doctors receive accurate information about such implants; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 1076. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in rates of compensation paid to veterans with service-connected disabilities, to enhance programs providing health care, education, and other benefits for veterans, to authorize major medical facility projects, to reform eligibility for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BYRD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ROTH, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REID, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. ROBB, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. BAYH):

S. 1077. A bill to dedicate the new Amtrak station in New York, New York, to Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HELMS:

S. 1078. A bill for the relief of Mrs. Elizabeth Eka Bassey and her children, Emmanuel O. Paul Bassey, Jacob Paul Bassey, and Mary Idongesit Paul Bassey; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MACK (for himself, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1079. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deductibility of business meal expenses for individuals subject to Federal hours of service; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1080. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit gunrunning, and provide mandatory minimum penalties for crimes related to gunrunning; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 1081. A bill to amend section 842 of title 18, United States Code, relating to explosive materials; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 1082. A bill to amend part Q of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide assistance for unincorporated neighborhood watch programs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 1083. A bill to expedite State review of criminal records of applicants for bail enforcement officer employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. BRYAN, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1084. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to protect consumers from the unauthorized switching of their long-distance service; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 1085. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the treatment of bonds issued to acquire renewable resources on land subject to conservation easement; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 1074. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to waive the 24-month waiting period for medicare coverage of individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and to provide medicare coverage of drugs and biologicals used for the treatment of ALS or for the alleviation of symptoms relating to ALS; to the Committee on Finance.

AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS) TREATMENT AND ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1999

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that will improve the lives of 30,000 Americans, 850 of whom live in my State of New Jersey, who are stricken with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

Many of us know Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) as the disease that struck down the famed Yankees 1st baseman, Lou Gehrig, yet, few of us are aware of the tragic effects ALS has on its victims. Fewer still are aware of the inherent flaws in the Medicare program which further compound the suffering of those with ALS.

Despite the short life expectancy of three to five years, ALS patients must endure a two year waiting period in order to receive Medicare services. Forcing ALS patients to wait until the final months of their illness defies common sense and human decency. In fact, as a result of the Medicare waiting period, approximately 17,000 ALS patients remain ineligible for Medicare services right now, regardless of the severity of their condition.

My bill, the ALS Treatment, and Assistance Act waives the 24-month Medicare waiting period for ALS patients. A similar waiver is granted for victims of end-stage renal disease due to the rapid onset of symptoms. The immediacy of symptoms in ALS patients and extremely short life expectancy illustrate the need to extend the waiver for ALS. In addition, many ALS victims have had productive lives and will have paid into the Social Security system well before the onset of ALS.

The legislation also requires Medicare to provide coverage for all FDA-approved drugs that treat ALS. While Medicare typically does not provide coverage for prescription drug therapies, over the past few years, exceptions have been granted to provide drug coverage to treat osteoporosis and certain types of cancer. Due to the rapid onset of symptoms and the short life expectancy of ALS patients, the need for another exception is clear. In addition, expanding Medicare coverage for ALS therapies will stimulate further research.

ALS is a disease that strikes at every community, with the potential for striking every American. No one is immune, and everyone is vulnerable. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague Senator WELLSTONE in introducing legislation that represents a first real step toward improving the quality of life for people with ALS while bringing us much closer to finding a cause and a cure.

Mr. President, I ask at this time 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. 1074

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Treatment and Assistance Act of 1999”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease, is a progressive neuromuscular disease characterized by a degeneration of the nerve cells of the brain and spinal cord leading to the wasting of muscles, paralysis, and eventual death.

(2) Approximately 30,000 individuals in the United States are afflicted with ALS at any time, with approximately 5,000 new cases appearing each year.

(3) ALS usually strikes individuals who are 50 years of age or older.

(4) The life expectancy of an individual with ALS is 3 to 5 years from the time of diagnosis.

(5) There is no known cure or cause for ALS.

(6) Aggressive treatment of the symptoms of ALS can extend the lives of those with the disease. Recent advances in ALS research have produced promising leads, many related to shared disease processes that appear to operate in many neurodegenerative diseases.

(c) PURPOSES.—It is the purposes of this Act—

(1) to assist individuals suffering from ALS by waiving the 24-month waiting period for medicare eligibility on the basis of disability for ALS patients; and

(2) to provide medicare coverage of drugs and biologicals used for the treatment of ALS or for the alleviation of symptoms relating to ALS.

SEC. 2. WAIVER OF 24-MONTH WAITING PERIOD FOR MEDICARE COVERAGE OF INDIVIDUALS DISABLED WITH AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS).

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 226 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 426) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (j) and by moving such subsection to the end of the section; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) For purposes of applying this section in the case of an individual medically determined to have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), the following special rules apply:

“(1) Subsection (b) shall be applied as if there were no requirement for any entitlement to benefits, or status, for a period longer than 1 month.

“(2) The entitlement under such subsection shall begin with the first month (rather than twenty-fifth month) of entitlement or status.

“(3) Subsection (f) shall not be applied.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1837 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395p) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) In applying this section in the case of an individual who is entitled to benefits under part A pursuant to the operation of section 226(h), the following special rules apply:

“(1) The initial enrollment period under subsection (d) shall begin on the first day of the first month in which the individual satisfies the requirement of section 1836(1).

“(2) In applying subsection (g)(1), the initial enrollment period shall begin on the first day of the first month of entitlement to disability insurance benefits referred to in such subsection.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to benefits for months beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. MEDICARE COVERAGE OF DRUGS TO TREAT AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS).

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (S);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (T) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(U) any drug (which is approved by the Commissioner of Food and Drugs under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355)) or biological (which is licensed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262)) prescribed for use in the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or the alleviation of symptoms relating to ALS.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to drugs furnished on or after the first day of the first month beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 1076. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in rates of compensation paid to veterans with service-connected disabilities, to enhance programs providing health care, education, and other benefits for veterans, to authorize major medical facility projects, to reform eligibility for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

VETERANS BENEFITS ACT OF 1999

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, today I have introduced a major piece of veterans legislation, the proposed Veterans Benefits Act of 1999. This bill is a so-called omnibus measure which will serve as the basis, and the platform, for much of the legislative work to be accomplished this year by the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

In the past, the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs has considered bills on a more piecemeal basis than is reflected in the larger bill that I have introduced today.

In times past, the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs has come to the Senate floor with numerous, separate bills to address the various matters that the committee typically faces: annual cost-of-living adjustments, reauthorizations of “sunsetting” programs and