

necessary to increase the number of personnel to prevent and respond to alleged violations of section 245 of title 18, United States Code (as amended by this title).

SEC. 908. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this title, an amendment made by this title, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title, the amendments made by this title, and the application of the provisions of such to any person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 909. HATE CRIMES. (a) DECLARATIONS.—Congress declares that—

(1) further efforts must be taken at all levels of government to respond to the staggering brutality of hate crimes that have riveted public attention and shocked the Nation;

(2) hate crimes are prompted by bias and are committed to send a message of hate to targeted communities, usually defined on the basis of immutable traits;

(3) the prominent characteristic of a hate crime is that it devastates not just the actual victim and the victim's family and friends, but frequently savages the community sharing the traits that caused the victim to be selected;

(4) any efforts undertaken by the Federal Government to combat hate crimes must respect the primacy that States and local officials have traditionally been accorded in the criminal prosecution of acts constituting hate crimes; and

(5) an overly broad reaction by the Federal Government to this serious problem might ultimately diminish the accountability of State and local officials in responding to hate crimes and transgress the constitutional limitations on the powers vested in Congress under the Constitution.

(b) STUDIES.—

(1) COLLECTION OF DATA.—

(A) DEFINITION OF HATE CRIME.—In this paragraph, the term "hate crime" means—

(i) a crime described in subsection (b)(1) of the first section of the Hate Crime Statistics Act (28 U.S.C. 534 note); and

(ii) a crime that manifests evidence of prejudice based on gender or age.

(B) COLLECTION FROM CROSS-SECTION OF STATES.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States, in consultation with the National Governors' Association, shall select 10 jurisdictions with laws classifying certain types of crimes as hate crimes and 10 jurisdictions without such laws from which to collect data described in subparagraph (C) over a 12-month period.

(C) DATA TO BE COLLECTED.—The data to be collected are—

(i) the number of hate crimes that are reported and investigated;

(ii) the percentage of hate crimes that are prosecuted and the percentage that result in conviction;

(iii) the length of the sentences imposed for crimes classified as hate crimes within a jurisdiction, compared with the length of sentences imposed for similar crimes committed in jurisdictions with no hate crime laws; and

(iv) references to and descriptions of the laws under which the offenders were punished.

(D) COSTS.—Participating jurisdictions shall be reimbursed for the reasonable and necessary costs of compiling data under this paragraph.

(2) STUDY OF TRENDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States and the General Accounting Office shall

complete a study that analyzes the data collected under paragraph (1) and under the Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990 to determine the extent of hate crime activity throughout the country and the success of State and local officials in combating that activity.

(B) IDENTIFICATION OF TRENDS.—In the study conducted under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General of the United States and the General Accounting Office shall identify any trends in the commission of hate crimes specifically by—

(i) geographic region;

(ii) type of crime committed; and

(iii) the number of hate crimes that are prosecuted and the number for which convictions are obtained.

(C) MODEL STATUTE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To encourage the identification and prosecution of hate crimes throughout the country, the Attorney General shall, through the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws of the American Law Institute or another appropriate forum, and in consultation with the States, develop a model statute to carry out the goals described in subsection (a) and criminalize acts classified as hate crimes.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the model statute, the Attorney General shall—

(A) include in the model statute crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice; and

(B) prepare an analysis of all reasons why any crime motivated by prejudice based on any traits of a victim should or should not be included.

(d) SUPPORT FOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS BY STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.—

(1) ASSISTANCE OTHER THAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—At the request of a law enforcement official of a State or a political subdivision of a State, the Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall provide technical, forensic, prosecutorial, or any other form of assistance in the criminal investigation or prosecution of any crime that—

(i) constitutes a crime of violence (as defined in section 16 of title 18, United States Code);

(ii) constitutes a felony under the laws of the State; and

(iii) is motivated by prejudice based on the victim's race, ethnicity, or religion or is a violation of the State's hate crime law.

(B) PRIORITY.—In providing assistance under subparagraph (A), the Attorney General shall give priority to crimes committed by offenders who have committed crimes in more than 1 State.

(2) GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is established a grant program within the Department of Justice to assist State and local officials in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

(B) ELIGIBILITY.—A State or political subdivision of a State applying for assistance under this paragraph shall—

(i) describe the purposes for which the grant is needed; and

(ii) certify that the State or political subdivision lacks the resources necessary to investigate or prosecute the hate crime.

(C) DEADLINE.—An application for a grant under this paragraph shall be approved or disapproved by the Attorney General not later than 24 hours after the application is submitted.

(D) GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant under this paragraph shall not exceed \$100,000 for any single case.

(E) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2001, the Attorney General, in consultation with the National Governors' Association,

shall submit to Congress a report describing the applications made for grants under this paragraph, the award of such grants, and the effectiveness of the grant funds awarded.

(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2000 and 2001.

(e) INTERSTATE TRAVEL TO COMMIT HATE CRIME.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§249. Interstate travel to commit hate crime

"(a) IN GENERAL.—A person, whether or not acting under color of law, who—

"(1) travels across a State line or enters or leaves Indian country in order, by force or threat of force, to willfully injure, intimidate, or interfere with, or by force or threat of force to attempt to injure, intimidate, or interfere with, any person because of the person's race, color, religion, or national origin; and

"(2) by force or threat of force, willfully injures, intimidates, or interferes with, or by force or threat of force attempts to willfully injure, intimidate, or interfere with any person because of the person's race, color, religion, or national origin,

shall be subject to a penalty under subsection (b).

"(b) PENALTIES.—A person described in subsection (a) who is subject to a penalty under this subsection—

"(1) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both;

"(2) if bodily injury results or if the violation includes the use, attempted use, or threatened use of a dangerous weapon, explosives, or fire, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both; or

"(3) if death results or if the violation includes kidnapping or an attempt to kidnap, aggravated sexual abuse or an attempt to commit aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to kill—

"(A) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or both; or

"(B) may be sentenced to death."

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 13 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"249. Interstate travel to commit hate crime."

This Act may be cited as the "Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000".

THE MILITARY RESERVISTS SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF ACT OF 1999

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 166, S. 918.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 918) to authorize the Small Business Administration to provide financial and business development assistance to military reservists' small businesses, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Small Business, with an amendment

to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Military Reservists Small Business Relief Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. REPAYMENT DEFERRAL FOR ACTIVE DUTY RESERVISTS.

Section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(n) REPAYMENT DEFERRED FOR ACTIVE DUTY RESERVISTS.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) ELIGIBLE RESERVIST.—The term 'eligible reservist' means a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces ordered to active duty during a period of military conflict.

"(B) ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEE.—The term 'essential employee' means an individual who is employed by a small business concern and whose managerial or technical expertise is critical to the successful day-to-day operations of that small business concern.

"(C) PERIOD OF MILITARY CONFLICT.—The term 'period of military conflict' means—

"(i) a period of war declared by Congress;

"(ii) a period of national emergency declared by Congress or by the President; or

"(iii) a period of a contingency operation, as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

"(D) QUALIFIED BORROWER.—The term 'qualified borrower' means—

"(i) an individual who is an eligible reservist and who received a direct loan under subsection (a) or (b) before being ordered to active duty; or

"(ii) a small business concern that received a direct loan under subsection (a) or (b) before an eligible reservist, who is an essential employee, was ordered to active duty.

"(2) DEFERRAL OF DIRECT LOANS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administration shall, upon written request, defer repayment of principal and interest due on a direct loan made under subsection (a) or (b), if such loan was incurred by a qualified borrower.

"(B) PERIOD OF DEFERRAL.—The period of deferral for repayment under this paragraph shall begin on the date on which the eligible reservist is ordered to active duty and shall terminate on the date that is 180 days after the date such eligible reservist is discharged or released from active duty.

"(C) INTEREST RATE REDUCTION DURING DEFERRAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during the period of deferral described in subparagraph (B), the Administration may, in its discretion, reduce the interest rate on any loan qualifying for a deferral under this paragraph.

"(3) DEFERRAL OF LOAN GUARANTEES AND OTHER FINANCINGS.—The Administration shall—

"(A) encourage intermediaries participating in the program under subsection (m) to defer repayment of a loan made with proceeds made available under that subsection, if such loan was incurred by a small business concern that is eligible to apply for assistance under subsection (b)(3); and

"(B) not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, establish guidelines to—

"(i) encourage lenders and other intermediaries to defer repayment of, or provide other relief relating to, loan guarantees under subsection (a) and financings under section 504 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 that were incurred by small business concerns that are eligible to apply for assistance under subsection (b)(3), and loan guarantees provided under subsection (m) if the intermediary provides relief to a small business concern under this paragraph; and

"(ii) implement a program to provide for the deferral of repayment or other relief to any intermediary providing relief to a small business borrower under this paragraph."

SEC. 3. DISASTER LOAN ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY RESERVISTS' SMALL BUSINESSES.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting after the undesignated paragraph that begins with "Provided, That no loan", the following:

"(3)(A) In this paragraph—

"(i) the term 'essential employee' means an individual who is employed by a small business concern and whose managerial or technical expertise is critical to the successful day-to-day operations of that small business concern;

"(ii) the term 'period of military conflict' has the meaning given the term in subsection (n)(1); and

"(iii) the term 'substantial economic injury' means an economic harm to a business concern that results in the inability of the business concern—

"(I) to meet its obligations as they mature;

"(II) to pay its ordinary and necessary operating expenses; or

"(III) to market, produce, or provide a product or service ordinarily marketed, produced, or provided by the business concern.

"(B) The Administration may make such disaster loans (either directly or in cooperation with banks or other lending institutions through agreements to participate on an immediate or deferred basis) to assist a small business concern that has suffered or that is likely to suffer substantial economic injury as the result of an essential employee of such small business concern being ordered to active military duty during a period of military conflict.

"(C) A small business concern described in subparagraph (B) shall be eligible to apply for assistance under this paragraph during the period beginning on the date on which the essential employee is ordered to active duty and ending on the date that is 90 days after the date on which such essential employee is discharged or released from active duty.

"(D) Any loan or guarantee extended pursuant to this paragraph shall be made at the same interest rate as economic injury loans under paragraph (2).

"(E) No loan may be made under this paragraph, either directly or in cooperation with banks or other lending institutions through agreements to participate on an immediate or deferred basis, if the total amount outstanding and committed to the borrower under this subsection would exceed \$1,500,000, unless such applicant constitutes a major source of employment in its surrounding area, as determined by the Administration, in which case the Administration, in its discretion, may waive the \$1,500,000 limitation.

"(F) For purposes of assistance under this paragraph, no declaration of a disaster area shall be required."

SEC. 4. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY RESERVISTS' SMALL BUSINESSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(1) MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY MILITARY OPERATIONS.—The Administration shall utilize, as appropriate, its entrepreneurial development and management assistance programs, including programs involving State or private sector partners, to provide business counseling and training to any small business concern adversely affected by the deployment of units of the Armed Forces of the United States in support of a period of military conflict (as defined in section 7(n)(1))."

(b) ENHANCED PUBLICITY DURING OPERATION ALLIED FORCE.—For the duration of Operation Allied Force and for 120 days thereafter, the Administration shall enhance its publicity of the availability of assistance provided pursuant to the amendments made by this Act, including information regarding the appropriate local office

at which affected small businesses may seek such assistance.

SEC. 5. GUIDELINES.

Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall issue such guidelines as the Administrator determines to be necessary to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) DISASTER LOANS.—The amendments made by section 3 shall apply to economic injury suffered or likely to be suffered as the result of a period of military conflict occurring or ending on or after March 24, 1999.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, after weeks of difficult decisions, decisions which have in too many respects divided us by party, we have today an easy vote—a vote on which we can all agree. We can support reservists and small business by voting for S. 918, the Military Reservists Small Business Relief Act of 1999. When I introduced this bill on April 29th, it had 31 cosponsors. It now has the endorsement of 52 Senators—31 Democrats and 21 Republicans.

A majority of the Senate—Senators from Maine to Utah, Michigan to North Carolina—have said that the men and women who serve as reservists need and deserve help maintaining their businesses while they are serving on active duty. That is an important statement about our commitment to the reservists who serve our country.

Today, more than 4,700 reservists are serving on active duty around the world. Where are they? In Haiti, Iraq, Bosnia, and Kosovo. And where are their businesses and jobs? Pick any state—Massachusetts, Arizona, Georgia, Ohio, Michigan.

When these men and women are called to action, they often have little notice, and their families face financial and emotional hardships. With half of America's military forces serving in reserve and National Guard units—a total of 1.4 million Americans—the Pentagon has acknowledged that extensive missions now require quicker call-ups. As a veteran of the Vietnam War and Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee, I know how disruptive active service can be for reservists who are suddenly called away from their families and work to serve our country.

What does a small business with few financial or personal reserves do without the owner, manager or employee who is essential to the daily operation and success of the small business? If you're in a rural area or small town, it will be hard to find a replacement. And if your family steps in, often they don't have the experience or time to run the business. A Commander from Danvers, Mass., who owns two gas station convenience stores said the tight job market only exacerbates the difficulty of finding a replacement, and that training someone well enough to "leave the

business in [their] hands would be near impossible." We need to help these men and women, their families and communities, bridge the gap between when the troops leave and when they return.

The Military Reservists Small Business Relief Act of 1999 offers small businessmen and women three types of assistance. First, it authorizes the SBA to defer loan repayments and to reduce interest rates on any of its direct loans, including disaster loans. The deferrals and reductions authorized by this bill are available from the date that the military reservist is called to active duty until 180 days after his or her release from active duty.

For microloans and loans guaranteed under the SBA's financial assistance programs, such as the 504 and 7(a) loan programs, the bill directs the Agency to develop policies that encourage and facilitate ways for SBA lenders to defer or reduce loan repayments. For example, a microlenders' ability to repay its debt to the SBA is dependent upon payments from microborrowers. So, with this bill's authority, if a microlender extends or defers loan repayment to a borrower who is a deployed military reservist, in turn the SBA would extend repayment obligations to the microlender.

Second, the bill establishes a low-interest economic injury loan program to be administered by the SBA through its disaster loan program. These loans would be available to provide interim operating capital to any small business when the departure of a military reservist to active duty causes substantial economic injury. Under the bill, such harm includes three general cases: inability to make loan payments; inability to pay ordinary and necessary operating expenses; or inability to market, produce or provide a service or product that it ordinarily provides. Under this provision, an eligible small business may apply for an economic injury loan from the date that the company's military reservist is ordered to active duty until 90 days after release from active duty.

Third, the bill directs the SBA and all of its private sector partners, such as the Small Business Development Centers and the Women's Business Centers, to make every effort to reach out to those businesses affected by call up of military reservists to active duty and offer business counseling and training. Those left behind to run the business, whether it's a spouse, a child, or an employee, while the military reservist is serving, may be inexperienced in running the business and need quick access to management and marketing counseling. We need to do what we can to help them keep their doors open and reduce the impact of military conflicts and national emergencies on the economy.

Finally, at the insightful suggestion of my colleague Senator LEVIN, the bill will be effective for all qualified reservists who are demobilized as of March 24th, 1999. According to the Depart-

ment of Defense, 1,266 reservists have been demobilized from Bosnia, Iraq and Kosovo since the 24th.

The provisions for this bill should already be available for those who need it, and I deeply regret that this bill hasn't been acted on earlier. The nature of the legislation is uncontroversial, it passed the Committee on Small Business June 9th, almost 50 days ago, by unanimous consent and, to repeat, it has the endorsement of 51 Senators. Since then, it has also passed the full House and the Senate Committee on Small Business as part of H.R. 1568, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999.

As much as I am frustrated by the delay on this bill, it probably doesn't compare to that of reservists who are on active duty and losing sleep over how they are going to keep their businesses going and avoid ruining their credit records. Ask the truck driver who serves in the Missouri National Air Guard and reported to active duty four months ago. He bought a new rig shortly before being called up and has hefty monthly payments to meet. He lined up a replacement to drive his truck while he was gone to keep money coming in, but the driver backed out of the agreement right before the reservist was to leave.

He tried to do the right thing—to implement a contingent plan—and yet something beyond his control interfered. It's hard to keep your customers happy when their merchandise isn't getting delivered. And it's even harder to make your loan payments when you're not bringing in enough money.

Or ask the reservist from Oklahoma who has supported his wife and four children for the past five years with a carpet and upholstery business. In 1998, he was called up for eight months, and he's been active this year since May 8th. What made it particularly damaging for his business this year was that he was called up at the beginning of the industry's high season. January to April are slow times, and April to December are the money-making months. He called my office a month ago to find out about this bill and find out how he could get assistance.

Though this bill was still waiting for action by the full Senate, we put him in contact with the SBA headquarters in Oklahoma to find some way to help. After reviewing his options and what it would take to resuscitate his business, he called to say that he was closing shop for good: "I'm just going to close my business down. I'm not going to try to get a small business loan. I want to cut my losses now. . . ."

We have yet to know the full impact on and needs of reservists currently deployed, but, unfortunately, we know the veteran reservists of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, suffered substantial set-backs while away from their businesses. They left their businesses or companies in good shape and returned to hardships ranging from bankruptcy to financial ruin, from deserted clients to layoffs.

When I introduced this bill, I talked about a small-business owner from New England, a physician and Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Reserve. He was called up for Operation Desert Storm as a flight surgeon in January 1991. For ten years, he had been a solo practitioner. After six months of service, he had to file bankruptcy. That bankruptcy affected not only him and his wife, but also his two employees and their families. After one year on duty, he returned home to face civilian life without a business or a job. He was only one of many. We must never let that happen again.

The Military Reservists Small Business Relief Act is timely because it can help those 6,500 reservists who have been serving in Kosovo since as far back as March. Even those who have already come home and are struggling to keep their businesses afloat. However, it is also important for future reservists because it can offer them relief if they serve any future contingency operations such as Kosovo, military conflicts or national emergencies.

For example, in 1993, the National Guard in Missouri was deployed for two months to help with the devastating flood of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers that left 14 miles of Missouri river-front land under water. While on active duty, two reservists, one with a successful hair salon in a suburb of St. Louis and another with a painting business in Rolla, lost so many of their clients they eventually had to close their small businesses. One of them resigned from the National Guard after that experience because he felt it had taken too big a toll on his life. At a time when America so badly needs more of our citizens to give of themselves, to sign up as military reservists, to make a sacrifice, we must pass this bill to make sure that service will not mean financial ruin. We must pass this legislation to take a stand for our reservists.

In closing, I want to thank and acknowledge Jan Behon of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Dr. Harold V. Nelson of Louisville, Kentucky, who volunteer for SERRR, the Self-Employed Recalled Reservists and Retirees committee, for their support, years of sacrifice and experience that they lent to this bill.

I also want to thank the National Guard Association of the United States for backing this legislation and ask that the Association's letter of support be included in the RECORD.

Mr. President, I thank my colleagues, particularly the 51 cosponsors of my bill, for their support of this important legislation.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read the third time, and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 918), as amended, was read the third time, and passed.

PRESERVATION OF ROUTE 66 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 66, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 66) to preserve the cultural resources of the Route 66 corridor and to authorize the Secretary of Interior to provide assistance.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 66) was considered read the third time and passed.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I am so very pleased that the Senate has passed H.R. 66, and taken an historic step in preserving one of America's cultural treasures—Route 66. I have long championed preservation of Route 66, the "Mother Road," which changed and shaped America in the twentieth century. This body had already passed my legislation earlier this year, S. 292, the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Act. Congresswoman HEATHER WILSON of Albuquerque, New Mexico, reintroduced a companion bill (H.R. 66) in the House of Representatives, and after a few amendments, we have finally got legislation which will preserve the unique cultural resources along the famous Route and authorize the Interior Secretary to provide assistance through the Park Service. I have been working for this day for nine years.

This legislation almost became law at the end of the 105th Congress, but failed to pass in the House of Representatives due to last minute political wrangling. However, no one has ever questioned the merit of this legislation.

I introduced the "Route 66 Study Act of 1990," which directed the National Park Service to determine the best ways to preserve, commemorate, and interpret Route 66. As a result of that study, I introduced legislation last Congress authorizing the National Park Service to join with Federal, State, and private efforts to preserve aspects of historic Route 66, the Nation's most important thoroughfare for East-West migration in the twentieth century.

H.R. 66 authorizes a funding level over 10 years and stresses that we want

the Federal Government to support grassroots efforts to preserve aspects of this historic highway. The Secretary of the Interior can now support State, local, tribal, and private organizations' efforts to preserve these resources.

Designated in 1926, the 2,200-mile Route 66 stretched from Chicago to Santa Monica, CA. It rolled through eight American States and three time zones. In New Mexico, it went through the communities of Tucumcari, Santa Rosa, Albuquerque, Grants, and Gallup. New Mexico added to the aura of Route 66, giving new generations of Americans their first experience of our colorful culture and heritage. Route 66 allowed generations of vacationers to travel to previously remote areas and experience the natural beauty and cultures of the Southwest and Far West.

While mobility of Americans has increased, few have forgotten the impact of this two-lane roadway of our youth. The "Grapes of Wrath" illustrates how depression-era families utilized this "Mother Road" to escape the dust bowl and start new lives in the West. The western U.S. was later opened to tourism, and many people learned the beauties of this entire country, Midwest to West. And I think a few folks discovered that New Mexico really is the Land of Enchantment.

The bill is designed to assist private efforts to preserve structures and other cultural resources of the historic Route 66 corridor. I am pleased that as we reach the turn of the century, we have recognized this historic landmark, and the impact it had on this Nation in this century.

I thank my colleagues for once again recognizing the importance of this legislation. I also want to thank the many New Mexicans and the National Historic Route 66 Federation for their support and help in this effort. Finally we will have a law recognizing the twentieth century equivalent to the Santa Fe Trail.

MUHAMMAD ALI BOXING REFORM ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 161, S. 305.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 305) to reform unfair and anti-competitive practices in the professional boxing industry.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments; as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

S. 305

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 "Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Professional boxing differs from other major, interstate professional sports industries in the United States in that it operates without any private sector association, league, or centralized industry organization to establish uniform and appropriate business practices and ethical standards. This has led to repeated occurrences of disreputable and coercive business practices in the boxing industry, to the detriment of professional boxers nationwide.

(2) Professional boxers are vulnerable to exploitative business practices engaged in by certain promoters and sanctioning bodies which dominate the sport. Boxers do not have an established representative group to advocate for their interests and rights in the industry.

(3) State officials are the proper regulators of professional boxing events, and must protect the welfare of professional boxers and serve the public interest by closely supervising boxing activity in their jurisdiction. State boxing commissions do not currently receive adequate information to determine whether boxers competing in their jurisdiction are being subjected to contract terms and business practices which may be violative of State regulations, or are onerous and confiscatory.

(4) Promoters who engage in illegal, coercive, or unethical business practices can take advantage of the lack of equitable business standards in the sport by holding boxing events in states with weaker regulatory oversight.

(5) The sanctioning organizations which have proliferated in the boxing industry have not established credible and objective criteria to rate professional boxers, and operate with virtually no industry or public oversight. Their ratings are susceptible to manipulation, have deprived boxers of fair opportunities for advancement, and have undermined public confidence in the integrity of the sport.

(6) Open competition in the professional boxing industry has been significantly interfered with by restrictive and anti-competitive business practices of certain promoters and sanctioning bodies, to the detriment of the athletes and the ticket-buying public. Common practices of promoters and sanctioning organizations represent restraints of interstate trade in the United States.

(7) It is necessary and appropriate to establish national contracting reforms to protect professional boxers and prevent exploitative business practices, and to require enhanced financial disclosures to State athletic commissions to improve the public oversight of the sport.

(8) Whereas the Congress seeks to improve the integrity and ensure fair practices of the professional boxing industry on a nationwide basis, it deems it appropriate to name this reform in honor of Muhammad Ali, whose career achievements and personal contributions to the sport, and positive impact on our society, are unsurpassed in the history of boxing.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to protect the rights and welfare of professional boxers by preventing certain exploitative, oppressive, and unethical business practices they may be subject to on an interstate basis;

(2) to assist State boxing commissions in their efforts to provide more effective public oversight of the sport; and