

SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) BACKLOG.—The term “backlog” means, with respect to an immigration benefit application, the period of time in excess of 180 days that such application has been pending before the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

(2) IMMIGRATION BENEFIT APPLICATION.—The term “immigration benefit application” means any application or petition to confer, certify, change, adjust, or extend any status granted under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

SEC. 204. IMMIGRATION SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT.

(a) AUTHORITY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall take such measures as may be necessary to—

(1) reduce the backlog in the processing of immigration benefit applications, with the objective of the total elimination of the backlog not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) make such other improvements in the processing of immigration benefit applications as may be necessary to ensure that a backlog does not develop after such date; and

(3) make such improvements in infrastructure as may be necessary to effectively provide immigration services.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Justice from time to time such sums as may be necessary for the Attorney General to carry out subsection (a).

(2) DESIGNATION OF ACCOUNT IN TREASURY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) may be referred to as the “Immigration Services and Infrastructure Improvements Account”.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) are authorized to remain available until expended.

(4) LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES.—None of the funds appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) may be expended until the report described in section 205(a) has been submitted to Congress.

SEC. 205. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) BACKLOG ELIMINATION PLAN.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the Committees on the Judiciary and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives concerning—

(A) the backlog in immigration benefit applications in existence as of the date of enactment of this title; and

(B) the Attorney General’s plan for eliminating such backlog.

(2) REPORT ELEMENTS.—The report shall include—

(A) an assessment of the data systems used in adjudicating and reporting on the status of immigration benefit applications, including—

(i) a description of the adequacy of existing computer hardware, computer software, and other mechanisms to comply with the adjudications and reporting requirements of this title; and

(ii) a plan for implementing improvements to existing data systems to accomplish the purpose of this title, as described in section 202(a);

(B) a description of the quality controls to be put into force to ensure timely, fair, accurate, and complete processing and adjudication of such applications;

(C) the elements specified in subsection (b)(2);

(D) an estimate of the amount of appropriated funds that would be necessary in

order to eliminate the backlogs in each category of immigration benefit applications described in subsection (b)(2); and

(E) a detailed plan on how the Attorney General will use any funds in the Immigration Services and Infrastructure Improvements Account to comply with the purposes of this title.

(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning 90 days after the end of the first fiscal year for which any appropriation authorized by section 204(b) is made, and 90 days after the end of each fiscal year thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the Committees on the Judiciary and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives concerning the status of—

(A) the Immigration Services and Infrastructure Improvements Account including any unobligated balances of appropriations in the Account; and

(B) the Attorney General’s efforts to eliminate backlogs in any immigration benefit application described in paragraph (2).

(2) REPORT ELEMENTS.—The report shall include—

(A) State-by-State data on—

(i) the number of naturalization cases adjudicated in each quarter of each fiscal year;

(ii) the average processing time for naturalization applications;

(iii) the number of naturalization applications pending for up to 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, 36 months, and 48 months or more;

(iv) estimated processing times adjudicating newly submitted naturalization applications;

(v) an analysis of the appropriate processing times for naturalization applications; and

(vi) the additional resources and process changes needed to eliminate the backlog for naturalization adjudications;

(B) the status of applications or, where applicable, petitions described in subparagraph (C), by Immigration and Naturalization Service district, including—

(i) the number of cases adjudicated in each quarter of each fiscal year;

(ii) the average processing time for such applications or petitions;

(iii) the number of applications or petitions pending for up to 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, 36 months, and 48 months or more;

(iv) the estimated processing times adjudicating newly submitted applications or petitions;

(v) an analysis of the appropriate processing times for applications or petitions; and

(vi) a description of the additional resources and process changes needed to eliminate the backlog for such processing and adjudications; and

(C) a status report on—

(i) applications for adjustments of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence;

(ii) petitions for nonimmigrant visas under section 214 of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

(iii) petitions filed under section 204 of such Act to classify aliens as immediate relatives or preference immigrants under section 203 of such Act;

(iv) applications for asylum under section 208 of such Act;

(v) registrations for Temporary Protected Status under section 244 of such Act; and

(vi) a description of the additional resources and process changes needed to eliminate the backlog for such processing and adjudications.

(3) ABSENCE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—In the event that no funds are appropriated sub-

ject to section 204(b) in the fiscal year in which this Act is enacted, the Attorney General shall submit a report to Congress not later than 90 days after the end of such fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, containing the elements described in paragraph (2).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill S. 2045.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. STENHOLM) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. STABENOW, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HANSEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, and October 6, 10, 11, 12, and 13.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEKAS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MICA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILLS AND A JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled bills and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1800. To amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to ensure that certain information regarding prisoners is reported to the Attorney General.

H.R. 2752. To direct the Secretary of the Interior to sell certain public land in Lincoln County through a competitive process.

H.R. 2773. To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Wekiwa River and its tributaries of Wekiwa Springs Run, Rock Springs Run, and Black Water Creek in the State of Florida as components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

H.R. 4579. To provide for the exchange of certain lands within the State of Utah.

H.R. 4583. To extend the authorization for the Air Force Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs.

H.J. Res. 110. Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 366. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as a National Historic Trail.

S. 1198. An act to establish a 3-year pilot project for the General Accounting Office to report to Congress on economically significant rules of Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2045. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to H-1B nonimmigrant aliens.

S. 2272. An act to improve the administrative efficiency and effectiveness of the Nation's abuse and neglect courts and for other purposes consistent with the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4365. To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to children's health.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Friday, October 6, 2000, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

10460. A letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Profile Documents for Commodity Pools (RIN: 3038-AB60) received October 4, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

10461. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report on the Cost Estimate for Pay-As-You-Go Calculations; to the Committee on the Budget.

10462. A letter from the Director, Office on Management and Budget, transmitting a report on the Estimates Contained in P.L. 106-259 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, FY 2001; to the Committee on the Budget.

10463. A letter from the Special Assistant, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Rocksprings, Texas) [MM Docket No. 99-336; RM-9758] received October 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

10464. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau,

Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Bristol, Vermont) [MM Docket No. 99-260; RM-9686] received October 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

10465. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Sheffield, Pennsylvania) [MM Docket No. 00-60; RM-9827] (Erie, Illinois) [MM Docket No. 00-61; RM-9840] (Due West, South Carolina) [MM Docket No. 00-62; RM-9846] received October 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

10466. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Jacksonville, Georgia) [MM Docket No. 00-84; RM-9855] (Las Vegas, New Mexico) [MM Docket No. 00-85; RM-9868] (Vale, Oregon) [MM Docket No. 00-86; RM-9869] (Waynesboro, Georgia) [MM Docket No. 00-89; RM-9872] (Fallon, Nevada) [MM Docket No. 00-111; RM-9900] (Weiser, Oregon) [MM Docket No. 00-112; RM-9901] received October 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

10467. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Pitkin, Lake Charles, Moss Bluff, and Reeves, Louisiana, and Crystal Beach, Galveston, Missouri City, and Rosenberg, Texas) [MM Docket No. 99-26; RM-9436; RM-9651; RM-9652] received October 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

10468. A letter from the Chief, Policy and Rules Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Spread Spectrum Devices [ET Docket No. 99-231] received October 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

10469. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Revision of the Commission's Rules To Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems [CC Docket No. 94-102] received October 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

10470. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Station (Andalusia, Alabama and Holt, Florida) [MM Docket No. 00-17; RM-9814] received October 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

10471. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Rangley, Silverton, and Ridgway, Colorado) [MM Docket No. 99-151, RM-9559, RM-9932] received October 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

10472. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a pro-

posed Manufacturing License Agreement with Italy [Transmittal No. DTC 127-00], pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(d); to the Committee on International Relations.

10473. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

10474. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of a report entitled "Audit of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3B for the period October 1, 1997 through December 31, 1999," pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Government Reform.

10475. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of a report entitled "Certification of the Fiscal Year 2000 Revised Revenue Estimate of \$3,225,180,000 in Support of the District's \$189 Million Multimodal General Obligation BONDS," pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Government Reform.

10476. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting a report on the revised Strategic Plan; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10477. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report on the Strategic Plan for 2000-2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10478. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report on the Strategic Plan 2001-2006; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10479. A letter from the The Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report on the Strategic Plan for FY 2000-2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10480. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting a report on the Strategic Plan for 2000-2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10481. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting a report on the Strategic Plan for FY 2000-2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10482. A letter from the Executive Director, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, transmitting a report on the five-year Strategic/Operational Plan for FY 2000-2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10483. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a report on the 2000 Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10484. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a report on the Federal Human Resources Management for the 21st century Strategic Plan FY 2000-2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10485. A letter from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting a report on the Strategic Plan for 1999-2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10486. A letter from the Chairman, Tennessee Valley Authority, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during the calendar year 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform.

10487. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [I.D. 081600A] received October 3, 2000, pursuant to