

EC-11973. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to the Legal Description of the Shaw Air Force Base Class C Airspace; Area; SC; docket no. 00-AWA-2 [11-22/12-14]" (RIN2120-AA66) (2000-0281) received on December 14, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-11974. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Class E Airspace; Meridian NAS—McCain Field, MS; docket no. 00-ASO-40 [11-22/12-14]" (RIN2120-AA66) (2000-0282) received on December 14, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-11975. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; New Bern, NC; Docket no. 00-ASO-41 [11-22/12-14]" (RIN2120-AA66) (2000-0283) received on December 14, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-11976. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "West Virginia Regulatory Program" (WV-086-FOR) received on December 14, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-11977. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines" (Order No. 587-M, Docket RM96-1-015) received on December 15, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-11978. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Device; Exemption From Premarket Notification; Class II Devices; Barium Enema Retention Catheters and Tips With or Without a Bag" (Docket No. 00P-1343) received on December 15, 2000; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-11979. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Small Business Investment Companies; Management Ownership Diversity" (RIN3245-AE48) received on December 15, 2000; to the Committee on Small Business.

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-643. A resolution adopted by the House of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the issuance of a postal stamp to honor coal miners; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 639

Whereas, Our entire Nation owes our coal miners a great deal more than we could ever repay them for the difficult and dangerous job that they performed so that we could have the fuel we needed to operate our industries and to heat our homes; and

Whereas, It would be proper and fitting for our Nation to recognize our coal miners, both past and present, for their contributions to this Nation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives memorialize the United States Postal Service to issue a postage stamp to honor our coal miners and to commemorate their contributions to our Nation and its citizens; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be delivered to the United States Postal Service, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-644. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1106

Whereas, The United States Congress has established the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) to provide federal assistance to states and localities for costs incurred for the imprisonment of undocumented aliens who commit criminal offenses; and

Whereas, The SCAAP program, which is administered by the United States Department of Justice, has a funding level authorized by statute of \$650 million per year; actual SCAAP funding for the 1999 fiscal year, however, is only \$585 million, an amount that provides state and local governments a mere 30 percent of their total reimbursable costs; and

Whereas, The amount of money spent in Texas by local and state governmental agencies related to incarceration of undocumented aliens charged or convicted with criminal offenses ranks as the third highest in the nation; and

Whereas, Although full funding of the SCAAP program to the \$650 million level will not decrease the total number of undocumented aliens held in state or county facilities, increased funding will raise the level of costs reimbursed by the federal government to approximately 40 percent of the costs for incarceration of these prisoners; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 76th Legislature, hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to fully fund the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program at the authorized level of \$650 million; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate forward official copies of this Resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this Resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-645. A petition from a citizen of the State of New York relative to primary and general elections; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Indian Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 2508, a bill to amend the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 1988 to provide for a final settlement of the claims of the Colorado Ute

Indian Tribes, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-513).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 1. A bill to establish an Election Administration Commission to study Federal, State, and local voting procedures and election administration and provide grants to modernize voting procedures and election administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 3280. A bill to prohibit assistance to the Palestinian Authority unless and until certain conditions are met; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 3281. A bill to designate the United States Post Office located at 60 Third Avenue in Long Branch, New Jersey, as the Pat King Post Office Building; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 3282. A bill to authorize funding for University Nuclear Science and Engineering Programs at the Department of Energy for fiscal years 2002 through 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 3283. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Commodity Exchange Act to promote legal certainty, enhance competition, and reduce systematic risk in markets for futures and over-the-counter derivatives, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3284. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish a national health program administered by the Office of Personnel Management to offer Federal employee health benefits plans to individuals who are not Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3285. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude tobacco products from qualifying foreign trade property in the treatment of extraterritorial income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 3286. A bill to provide permanent funding for the Bureau of Land Management Payment in Lieu of Taxes program and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3287. A bill to amend title 3, United States Code, and the Uniform Time Act of 1966 to establish a single poll closing time for Presidential general elections; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 388. A resolution tendering the thanks of the Senate to the President pro tempore for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 389. A resolution tendering the thanks of the Senate to the Vice President for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 390. To commend the exemplary leadership of the Democratic Leader; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 391. A resolution to commend the exemplary leadership of the Majority Leader; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 392. A resolution tendering the thanks of the Senate to the Senate Staff for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which they have assisted the deliberations of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. FITZGERALD):

S. Res. 393. Considered and agreed to.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Mr. BYRD):

S. Con. Res. 162. A concurrent resolution to direct the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 4577; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BURNS, and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 1. A bill to establish an Election Administration Commission to study Federal, State, and local voting procedures and election administration and provide grants to modernize voting procedures and election administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ELECTION REFORM ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Election Reform Act. As chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, I am pleased to be introducing along with Senators TORRICELLI, FEINSTEIN, ALLARD, SMITH, and LANDRIEU meaningful, bipartisan legislation to reform the administration of our nation's elections. As we move into the twenty-first century it is inexcusable that the world's most advanced democracy relies on voting systems designed shortly after the Second World War. The Election Reform Act will ensure that our nation's electoral process is brought up to twenty-first century standards.

By combining the Federal Election Commission's Election Clearinghouse and the Department of Defense' Office of Voting Assistance, which facilitates voting by American civilians and servicemen overseas, into the Election Ad-

ministration Commission, the bill will create one agency that can bring focused expertise to bear on the administration of elections. This Commission will consist of four Commissioners appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. It will continue to carry out the functions of the two entities that are being combined to create it. These include advising states on the requirements of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, carrying out the Federal functions under the Uniformed and Overseas Voting Act, and servicing as a clearinghouse for information on federal elections and election administration.

In addition, the new Commission will engage in ongoing study and make periodic recommendations on the best practices relating to voting technology and ballot design as well as polling place accessibility. The Commission will also study and recommend ways to improve voter registration, verification of registration, and the maintenance and accuracy of voter rolls. This is of special urgency in view of the allegations surfacing in this election of hundreds of felons being listed on voting rolls and illegally voting, as reported last week in the Miami Herald, while other law abiding citizens who allegedly registered were not included on the voting rolls and were unable to vote. Such revelations from this year's elections coupled with the well-known report by "60 Minutes" of the prevalence of dead people and pets both registering and voting in past elections make clear the need for thoughtful study and recommendations to ensure that everyone who is legally entitled to vote is able to do so and that everyone who votes is legally entitled to do so—and does so only once. In addition to its studies and recommendations, the Commission will provide matching grants to states working to improve election administration.

I think it is important that this Commission be established as a permanent, ongoing body. Many issues of election administration, such as polling place accessibility and alternative voting methods require ongoing examination in view of ever-changing technology. A permanent Commission will be able to better facilitate timely information about new, cost-effective technologies that can improve election administration, such as technology to enable physically-challenged citizens to vote with the same degree of privacy and dignity enjoyed by other citizens. In this age of rapid technological innovation, continuous, ongoing assessment of the ways technology can improve election administration serves our nation's interest by ensuring that outmoded technology and procedures never again impede democracy in our great nation.

I am pleased to announce that Representative TOM DAVIS, along with Representatives ROTHMAN and KENNEDY,

are introducing the House companion to our bill today. And finally, I would like to mention some of the citizens organizations that have announced their support for our bill. They include the Paralyzed Veterans of America, The Voting Integrity Project, The National Council on Disability, and the National Foundation for the Blind.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senators McCONNELL, FEINSTEIN, ALLARD, LANDRIEU, SMITH and BENNETT to introduce the Election Reform Act of 2000, bipartisan legislation that seeks to modernize and improve the nation's election procedures. Although there is much about the aftermath of the November 7th elections upon which Americans can disagree, this much should be clear: the United States is a 21st century democracy with a 19th century election system. In order to maintain the legitimacy of our country's democratic institutions, we must have an election system that is fair and accurate.

The antiquated voting equipment used in most counties around the country is perhaps the most startling revelation from this year's election. Election Data Services reports that eighteen percent of Americans vote using technology that prevailed around the time Thomas Edison invented the lightbulb and nearly thirty-three percent of Americans vote by punching out unpredictable little chads, a system implemented during the Johnson administration. In a nation where people can confidently access the balance in their checking account on any street corner, it is unacceptable to have any less confidence in the exercise of the most fundamental of rights. Many states and localities continue to use outdated systems because of the cost of replacing them. Electronic voting machines with touch screens similar to bank ATMs, which are the most modern and accurate systems, cost about \$5,000 each while replacing a punch-card system costs only about \$225.

The inequity in quality of voting machines across the country raises fundamental questions of fairness and equal protection. Statistics from Florida demonstrate that those individuals who voted in areas with punch cards had a much higher chance that their vote would not register than those who voted with more modern equipment. For example, in Florida predominantly African-American neighborhoods lost many more presidential votes than other areas largely because of the inferiority of their voting machines. Thus, thousands of legally qualified voters were disenfranchised as a direct result of the financial resources of their community.

Therefore, in order to help improve and modernize the nation's election procedures, the Election Reform Act establishes a permanent, federal commission charged solely with the improvement of election administration. By combining the Federal Election