

Minerals Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf-Production Measurement Document Incorporated by Reference" (RIN1010-AC-73) received on June 16, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9357. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Park System Units in Alaska; Denali National Park and Preserve" (RIN1024-AC58) received on June 8, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9358. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indiana Regulatory Program" (RIN:IN-149-FOR) received on May 31, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9359. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Alabama Regulatory Program" (RIN:SPATS No. AL-070-FOR) received on June 2, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9360. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Alabama Regulatory Program" (RIN:SPATS No. AL-069-FOR) received on June 19, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9361. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "DOE Authorized Subcontract for Use by DOE Management and Operating (M&O) Contractors with New Independent States' Scientific Institutes through the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine" (RIN:AL-2000-05); to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9362. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Greening the Government Requirements in Contracting" (RIN:AL-2000-03) received on June 5, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9363. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "DOE Administrative Class Deviation, 952.247-70, Foreign Travel, and 970.5204-52, Foreign Travel" (RIN:AL-2000-04) received on June 5, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9364. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chapter 9, Public Key Cryptography and Key Management" (RIN:DOE M 200.1-1) received on June 5, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9365. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standardization of Firearms" (RIN:DOE N 473.2) received on June 5, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9366. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security and Emergency Management Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance Program" (RIN:DOE O 470.2A) received on June 5, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9367. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "DOE Standard; Stabilization, Packaging, and Storage of Plutonium-bearing Materials" (RIN:DOE-STD-3013-99) received on June 14, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9368. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "DOE Standard; Content of System Design Descriptions" (RIN:DOE-STD-3024-98) received on June 14, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9369. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development, and Demonstration Program; Petroleum-Equivalent Fuel Economy Calculation" (RIN:1904-AA40) received on June 16, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9370. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "DOE Standard; Guide to Good Practices for Shift Routines and Operating Practices" (RIN:DOE-STD-1041-93) received on June 16, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9371. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "DOE Standard; Guide to Good Practices for Communications" (RIN:DOE-STD-1031-92) received on June 16, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9372. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "DOE Standard; Guide to Good Practices for Control of On-shift Training" (RIN:DOE-STD-1040-93) received on June 16, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9373. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "DOE Specifications; Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) Systems" (RIN:DOE-SPEC-3021-97) received on June 16, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9374. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Forms Management Guide" (RIN:DOE G 242.1-1) received on June 16, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9375. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Of-

fice of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Department of Energy Badges" (RIN:DOE N 473.4) received on June 16, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GORTON, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4578: A bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-312).

By Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 3051: A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a feasibility study on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2001" (Report No. 106-311).

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. KERRY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2766. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to payments made under the prospective payment system for home health services furnished under the medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. ABRAHAM):

S. 2767. A bill to authorize the enforcement by State and local governments of certain Federal Communications Commission regulations regarding use of citizens band radio equipment; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2768. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the medicare-dependent, small rural hospital program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ROBB, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. CLELAND):

S. 2769. A bill to authorize funding for National Instant Criminal Background Check System improvements; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2770. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain machines designed for children's education; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CLELAND:

S. 2771. A bill to provide for Federal recognition of the Lower Muscogee-Creek Indian Tribe of Georgia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2772. A bill to amend the securities laws to provide for regulatory parity for single stock futures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. KOHL):

S. 2773. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to enhance dairy markets through dairy product mandatory reporting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. KERREY, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 2774. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for individual savings accounts funded by employee and employer social security payroll deductions, to extend the solvency of the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. CLELAND, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 2775. To foster innovation and technological advancement in the development of the Internet and electronic commerce, and to assist the States in simplifying their sales and use taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 2776. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage charitable contributions to public charities for use in medical research; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROBB, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 2777. A bill to amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 to revise and enhance authorities, and to authorize appropriations, for the Chesapeake Bay Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 2778. A bill to amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. KOHL, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 2779. A bill to provide for the designation of renewal communities and to provide tax incentives relating to such communities, to provide a tax credit to taxpayers investing in entities seeking to provide capital to create new markets in low-income communities, and to provide for the establishment of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BRYAN:

S. Res. 326. A resolution designating the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, as the "National Cowboy Poetry Gathering"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REID:

S. Res. 327. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on United States efforts to encourage the governments of foreign countries to investigate and prosecute crimes committed in those countries in the

name of family honor and to provide relief for victims of those crimes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2766. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to payments made under the prospective payment system for home health services furnished under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

THE EQUAL ACCESS TO HOME HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2000

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague Senator COLLINS in introducing the Equal Access to Medicare Home Health Care Act. This legislation will protect patient access to home health care under Medicare, and ensure that providers are able to continue serving seniors who reside in medically underserved areas.

Medicare was enacted in 1965, under the leadership of President Lyndon Johnson, as a promise to the American people that, in exchange for their years of hard work and service to our country, their health care would be protected in their golden years. Today, over 30 million seniors rely on the Medicare home health benefit to receive the care they need to maintain their independence and remain in their own homes, and to avoid the need for more costly hospital or nursing home care.

Home health care is critical. It is a benefit to which all eligible Medicare beneficiaries, regardless of where they live, should be entitled. But, this benefit is being seriously undermined. Since enactment of the Balanced Budget Act, BBA, of 1997, federal funding for home health care has plummeted. According to the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, Medicare spending on home health care dropped 45 percent in the last two fiscal years—from \$17.5 billion in 1998 to \$9.7 billion in 1999—far beyond the original amount of savings sought by the BBA. Across the country, these cuts have forced over 2,500 home health agencies to close and over 500,000 patients to lose their services.

In my own State of Massachusetts—a state that, because of economic efficiency, sustained a disproportionate share of the BBA cuts in Medicare home health funding—28 home health agencies have closed, 6 more have turned in their Medicare provider numbers and chosen to opt out of the Medicare program, and 12 more have been forced to merge in order to consolidate their limited resources. The home health agencies that have continued to serve patients despite the deep cuts in Medicare funding reported net operating losses of \$164 million in 1998. The loss of home health care providers in Massachusetts has cost 10,000 patients access to home health services. Consequently, many of the most vulner-

able residents in my state are being forced to enter hospitals and nursing homes, or going without any help at all.

To compound the problem, without Congressional action, Medicare payments for home health care will be automatically cut by an additional 15 percent next year. It is critical that we defend America's seniors against future cuts in home health services, and this bill will eliminate the additional 15 percent cut in Medicare home health payments mandated by the BBA. However, we must do more than attempt to stop future cuts. Indeed, it is equally as important that we begin to provide relief to home health providers who are already struggling to care for patients.

During the first year of implementation of the Interim Payment System, IPS, thousands of home health care agencies incurred overpayments because they were not notified of their per beneficiary limits until long after the limits were imposed. The provisions of this bill would extend the repayment period for IPS overpayments without interest for three years, and thereafter at an interest rate lower than currently mandated.

Under IPS, even agencies which did not incur overpayments were placed on precarious financial footing because of insufficient payments, particularly for high-cost and long-term patients. Accordingly, it is critical that we bolster the efforts of all home health care providers to transcend their current operating deficits, especially as they transition from the Interim Payment System to the Prospective Payment System, PPS.

The BBA specified that, in aggregate, PPS payments to home health providers must equal IPS payments. This adjustment—the budget neutrality factor—is expected to reduce PPS payments for home health services by 22 percent below the average Medicare costs prior to enactment of the BBA. In order to provide relief to home health providers in this budget neutral context, the Equal Access to Medicare Home Health Care Act would establish a 10 percent add-on to the episodic base payment for patients in rural areas, to reflect the increasing costs of travel, and a "reasonable cost" add-on for security services utilized by providers in our urban areas. These add-ons ensure that patients in our medically underserved communities continue to receive the home care they need and deserve.

Finally, this legislation would encourage the incorporation of telehealth technology in home care plans by allowing cost reporting of the telemedicine services utilized by agencies. Telemedicine has demonstrated tremendous potential in bringing modern health care services to patients who reside in areas where providers and technology are scarce. Cost reporting will provide the data necessary to develop a fair and reasonable Medicare reimbursement policy for telehomecare and