

Marine Mammal; Endangered and Threatened Fish and Wildlife; Cook Inlet Beluga Whales" (RIN0648-XA53) received on June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-9832. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Miscellaneous Administrative Revisions to the NASA FAR Supplement" received on June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-9833. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Model A319, A320, and A321 Series Airplanes; docket No. 99-NM-351 [6-19-6-22]" (RIN2120-AA64 (2000-0340)) received on June 22, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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-599. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska relative to the Exxon Mobil Corporation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-600. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska relative to fair trade between the United States and Canada; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-601. A petition from the Native Hawaiian Convention concerning the reestablishment of a Native Hawaiian Nation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-602. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Illinois relative to industrial hemp; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 553

Whereas, Industrial hemp refers to varieties of the cannabis plant that have a low content of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and that are cultivated for fiber and oil; and

Whereas, Industrial hemp should not be confused with varieties of cannabis that have high content of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and that are commonly referred to as marijuana; and

Whereas, The commercial production and cultivation of industrial hemp is now permitted in Canada, under licenses and authorizations issued by Health Canada; and

Whereas, Health Canada controls, through rules, all activities relating to the importation, exportation, possession, production, sale, provision, transportation, sending, delivering, and offering for sale of industrial hemp; and

Whereas, Industrial hemp is grown legally throughout Europe and Asia; and

Whereas, Many farmers facing uncertain times in the agricultural marketplace view the reintroduction of industrial hemp as another potentially alternative crop that will have long-term economic benefits to the farmers who produce hemp and the persons who use hemp in the production of textiles, paper products, concrete reinforcement, automobile parts, plastic, cosmetics, organic foods, and natural body products; and

Whereas, Congress never originally intended to prohibit the production of industrial hemp when restricting the production, possession, and use of marijuana; therefore be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-First General Assembly of the State

of Illinois, That we urge the United States Congress to acknowledge the difference between the hallucinogenic drug known as marijuana and the agricultural crop known as industrial hemp; to acknowledge that allowing and encouraging farmers to produce industrial hemp will improve the balance of trade by promoting domestic sources of industrial hemp; and to assist United States' producers by clearly authorizing the commercial production of industrial hemp and by being the leading advocate for the industrial hemp industry; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the chairmen of the Agriculture Committees of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

POM-603. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to the preservation of liberty; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 33

Whereas, the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America, which became effective on March 4, 1789, declares that the people of the United States have established that constitution with the stated purposes of forming a more perfect union, establishing justice, insuring domestic tranquility, providing for the common defense, promoting the general welfare, and securing the blessings of liberty; and

Whereas, the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, which became effective on December 15, 1791, provides, in part, that "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated . . ."; and

Whereas, on November 19, 1863, in his Address of Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln noted that our nation was conceived in liberty and spoke of the need for those who heard his words to resolve ". . . that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth"; and

Whereas, these noble and lofty ideals, upon which our nation was founded and preserved, of liberty and government for the people, appear to be in danger as the echoes of the increasing raids against the citizens of our country, the latest of which was in Miami, reverberate across our land; and

Whereas, our nation must always be prepared to do the things which are necessary to preserve our liberty, but in preserving the liberty of the nation, the rights of the individuals must also be preserved; and

Whereas, certain actions by certain agents of our federal government have risen to an unhealthy fear of our government among the citizens of our nation; and

Whereas, the United States Congress should take the lead in preserving the liberties of our nation as a whole and the liberties of the individual citizens of our nation: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Louisiana House of Representatives does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such steps as are necessary to preserve the liberties of our nation as a whole and the liberties of the individual citizens of our nation; be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the presiding officer of each house of the United States Congress and to each member of the Louisiana delegation of the United States Congress.

POM-604. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to the Voting Rights Act of 1965; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 90

Whereas, On August 6, 1965, United States President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) into law; and

Whereas, The purpose of this landmark legislation was to ensure that the voting rights of African-American citizens, as guaranteed by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments, to the United States Constitution, are preserved and strongly enforced; and

Whereas, Prior to the passage of the VRA, many areas of the United States were in the grip of oppressive state laws that purposely hindered and abridged the right of African-Americans to register and vote by imposing demeaning tests and devices that kept them away from the polls on election day and permitted white voters to have control over the electoral process and the candidates for elective office; and

Whereas, For example, before the passage of the VRA, only 29 percent of African-Americans were registered to vote in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia compared over 73.4 percent of whites, and within two years after the passage of the law, more than 52 percent of African Americans were registered to vote in those states; and

Whereas, When the VRA was adopted, Section 4 of the law abolished literacy tests and all other similar devices used to discriminate against minority voters; and

Whereas, Section 5 of the law was designed to ensure that minority voters would have the opportunity to register to vote and fully participate in this county's electoral process free of discrimination; and

Whereas, Section 5 mandated that any change in election law in states that had a history of electoral discrimination—including something as small as moving a polling place—must be precleared, either through the federal Department of Justice or through the federal district court in the District of Columbia, to ensure that the change did not abridge minority voting rights; and

Whereas, In the wake of the passage of the VRA, the federal Department of Justice has used it to stop or remove a large number of the discriminatory practices that diluted the voting strength of African-Americans or prevented them from achieving electoral victories; and

Whereas, These practices include racial gerrymandering—drawing Congressional or legislative district boundaries with race as the primary consideration—and the use of at-large elections in counties and municipalities, whereby representatives are elected from the political subdivision as a whole, instead of from districts within it, so that a majority of white voters always defeat African-American candidates; and

Whereas, New Jersey has long had an interest in ensuring that African-Americans are permitted to exercise their constitutionally-guaranteed right to vote, as evidenced by the honor given to Thomas Mundy Peterson of Perth Amboy, the first African-American to vote in the United States after the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution in March 1870; and

Whereas, Given that the civil rights community believes that the VRA has allowed African-Americans in this country to fully exercise their right to vote and have an important role in this country's democratic process, it is fitting and proper for this State to acknowledge the year 2000 as the 35th anniversary of the VRA; now, therefore be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House acknowledges the year 2000 as the 35th anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to every presiding officer of the Congress of the United States, every member thereof elected from this State and to the executive officers of the largest civil rights organizations in the United States and this State.

POM-605. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to the proposed "Justice for Holocaust Survivors Act"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 58

Whereas, During the tragic events we now call the Holocaust, in which the Nazi dictatorship in Germany illegally expropriated private property and murdered six million Jews as part of a systematic program of genocide; and

Whereas, Five million others were also murdered by the Nazis; and

Whereas, There are thousands of Holocaust survivors living in the United States who are being denied restitution for their pain and suffering during the Holocaust; and

Whereas, This situation affects many survivors who have come to the United States during the last 50 years, as well as thousands of survivors from the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics who have arrived here during the last decade and who have experienced a disproportionate refusal rate by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany; and

Whereas, Many Holocaust survivors are indigent and in need of financial assistance; and

Whereas, Current United States law precludes lawsuits against sovereign governments such as the Federal Republic of Germany; and

Whereas, H.R. 271 of 1999, the Justice for Holocaust Survivors Act, would amend the federal Foreign Sovereigns Immunity Act to permit U.S. citizens who are victims of the Holocaust, whether or not they were citizens of the United States during World War II, to sue the Federal Republic of Germany for compensation in U.S. courts; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The President and the Congress of the United States are respectfully memorialized to enact H.R. 271 of 1999, the Justice for Holocaust Survivors Act, which would permit U.S. citizens who are victims of the Holocaust, whether or not they were U.S. citizens during World War II, to sue the Federal Republic of Germany for compensation in U.S. courts of law.

2. A copy of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and every member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-606. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia relative to voluntary school prayer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 71

Whereas, the framers of the Constitution, recognizing free exercise of religion as an unalienable right, secured its protection with the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, statements of belief in a Supreme Power and the virtue of seeking strength and

protection from that Power are prevalent throughout our national history; and

Whereas, today there are numerous signs of harmonious church/state coexistence, including organized prayer at every Congressional session, the use of the Bible while administering the oath of office, and the imprinting of "In God we trust" on the national currency; and

Whereas, prayer in public schools existed for nearly 200 years before the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Engel v. Vitale* that a government-composed nondenominational "Regents" prayer recited by students was unconstitutional as a violation of the establishment of the religion clause of the First Amendment; and

Whereas, this decision has severely constrained the exercise of religious freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment; and

Whereas, in the aftermath of the recent tragic events at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado and Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, Arkansas, many believe that providing for school prayer would help to prevent these incomprehensible acts of violence from recurring at other schools; and

Whereas, several resolutions have been introduced during the 106th Congress, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to allow for individual or group prayer in public schools and other public institutions; and

Whereas, the proposed amendments would not prescribe the content of the prayer, endorse one religion over another, or require any person to participate in prayer; and

Whereas, voluntary prayer is a beneficial practice that provides the opportunity for free expression of religion and rebuilding a moral emphasis needed in a country troubled by outbreaks of unprecedented school violence; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of delegates, the Senate concurring: That the Congress of the United States be urged to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to allow for voluntary school prayer; and, be it

Resolved further: That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1912: A bill to facilitate the growth of electronic commerce and enable the electronic commerce market to continue its current growth rate and realize its full potential, to signal strong support of the electronic commerce market by promoting its use within Federal government agencies and small and medium-sized businesses, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-349).

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. WELLSTONE:

S. 2888. A bill to guarantee for all Americans quality, affordable, and comprehensive health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2889. A bill to amend the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act and the Comprehensive Smokeless Tobacco Health Education Act of 1986 to require warning labels for tobacco products; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. L. CHAFEE):

S. 2890. A bill to provide States with funds to support State, regional, and local school construction; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2891. A bill to establish a national policy of basic consumer fair treatment for airline passengers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 2892. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 158-15 Liberty Avenue in Jamaica, Queens, New York, as the "Floyd H. Flake Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 2893. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 757 Warren Road in Ithaca, New York, as the "Matthew F. McHugh Post Office"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BURNS, and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 2894. A bill to provide tax and regulatory relief for farmers and to improve the competitiveness of American agricultural commodities and products in global markets; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WELLSTONE:

S. 2888. A bill to guarantee for all Americans quality, affordable, and comprehensive health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Finance.

HEALTH SECURITY FOR ALL AMERICANS ACT

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, today I want to talk about an issue that is of the utmost importance: Health Security.

First I want to talk about the problem: Health insecurity. Then I want to talk about the solution: The Health Security for All Americans Act. And finally I want people around the country to hear what they can do to wake up Congress and make Health Security for All Americans a reality.

This year has been a hard one for me. Two months ago, we buried one of my dear friends, Mike Epstein. Mike's sons came to be with him for the last few weeks of his struggle with cancer. Devoted sons, they spoke glowingly about their father at a memorial service for him in the Capitol. As any of you who has sat with a dying parent knows, emotions overflow, coping is difficult, and the grief is profound. The last thing a son or daughter, a parent or spouse, needs is to have the additional burden of wondering where will the next dollar for ever mounting health care bills come from; to worry about going into debt; to worry about going bankrupt because of a loved ones health care needs. Mike's sons did not have to worry about that because Mike had health care coverage as good as Congress gets.