

of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2163. Mr. TORRICELLI (for Mr. BAUCUS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2884, An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for victims of the terrorist attacks against the United States, and for other purposes.

SA 2164. Mr. REID (for Mr. KERRY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 174, to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the microloan program, and for other purposes.

SA 2165. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3090, to provide tax incentives for economic recovery; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2163. Mr. TORRICELLI (for Mr. BAUCUS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2884, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for victims of the terrorist attacks against the United States, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; ETC.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Victims of Terrorism Tax Relief Act of 2001”.

(b) **AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.**—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; etc.

TITLE I—RELIEF PROVISIONS FOR VICTIMS OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

Sec. 101. Income and employment taxes of victims of terrorist attacks.

Sec. 102. Estate tax reduction.

Sec. 103. Payments by charitable organizations treated as exempt payments.

Sec. 104. Exclusion of certain cancellations of indebtedness.

Sec. 105. Treatment of certain structured settlement payments and disability trusts.

Sec. 106. No impact on social security trust funds.

TITLE II—GENERAL RELIEF FOR VICTIMS OF DISASTERS AND TERRORISTIC OR MILITARY ACTIONS

Sec. 201. Exclusion for disaster relief payments.

Sec. 202. Authority to postpone certain deadlines and required actions.

Sec. 203. Internal Revenue Service disaster response team.

Sec. 204. Application of certain provisions to terroristic or military actions.

Sec. 205. Clarification of due date for airline excise tax deposits.

Sec. 206. Coordination with Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act.

TITLE III—DISCLOSURE OF TAX INFORMATION IN TERRORISM AND NATIONAL SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS

Sec. 301. Disclosure of tax information in terrorism and national security investigations.

TITLE I—RELIEF PROVISIONS FOR VICTIMS OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

SEC. 101. INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT TAXES OF VICTIMS OF TERRORIST ATTACKS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 692 (relating to income taxes of members of Armed Forces on death) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) **INDIVIDUALS DYING AS A RESULT OF CERTAIN TERRORIST ATTACKS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of any individual who dies as a result of wounds or injury incurred as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States on April 19, 1995, or September 11, 2001, or who dies as a result of illness incurred as a result of a terrorist attack involving anthrax occurring on or after September 11, 2001, and before January 1, 2002, any tax imposed by this subtitle shall not apply—

“(A) with respect to the taxable year in which falls the date of such individual’s death, and

“(B) with respect to any prior taxable year in the period beginning with the last taxable year ending before the taxable year in which the wounds, injury, or illness were incurred.

“(2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

“(A) **TAXATION OF CERTAIN BENEFITS.**—Subject to such rules as the Secretary may prescribe, paragraph (1) shall not apply to the amount of any tax imposed by this subtitle which would be computed by only taking into account the items of income, gain, or other amounts attributable to—

“(i) amounts payable in the taxable year by reason of the death of an individual described in paragraph (1) which would have been payable in such taxable year if the death had occurred by reason of an event other than an event described in paragraph (1), or

“(ii) amounts payable in the taxable year which would not have been payable in such taxable year but for an action taken after the date of the applicable terrorist attack.

“(B) **NO RELIEF FOR PERPETRATORS.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to any individual identified by the Attorney General to have been a participant or conspirator in any event described in paragraph (1), or a representative of such individual.”.

(b) **REFUND OF OTHER TAXES PAID.**—Section 692, as amended by subsection (a), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) **REFUND OF OTHER TAXES PAID.**—In determining the amount of tax under this section to be credited or refunded as an overpayment with respect to any individual for any period, such amount shall be increased by an amount equal to the amount of taxes imposed and collected under chapter 21 and sections 3201(a), 3211(a)(1), and 3221(a) with respect to such individual for such period.”.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Section 5(b)(1) is amended by inserting “and victims of certain terrorist attacks” before “on death”.

(2) Section 6013(f)(2)(B) is amended by inserting “and victims of certain terrorist attacks” before “on death”.

(d) **CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) The heading of section 692 is amended to read as follows:

“**SEC. 692. INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT TAXES OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND VICTIMS OF CERTAIN TERRORIST ATTACKS ON DEATH.**”.

(2) The item relating to section 692 in the table of sections for part II of subchapter J of chapter 1 is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 692. Income and employment taxes of members of Armed Forces and victims of certain terrorist attacks on death.”.

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE; WAIVER OF LIMITATIONS.**—

(1) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years ending before, on, or after September 11, 2001.

(2) **WAIVER OF LIMITATIONS.**—If refund or credit of any overpayment of tax resulting from the amendments made by this section is prevented at any time before the close of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act by the operation of any law or rule of law (including res judicata), such refund or credit may nevertheless be made or allowed if claim therefor is filed before the close of such period.

SEC. 102. ESTATE TAX REDUCTION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2201 is amended to read as follows:

“**SEC. 2201. COMBAT ZONE-RELATED DEATHS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND DEATHS OF VICTIMS OF CERTAIN TERRORIST ATTACKS.**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Unless the executor elects not to have this section apply, in applying section 2001 to the estate of a qualified decedent, the rate schedule set forth in subsection (c) shall be deemed to be the rate schedule set forth in section 2001(c).

“(b) **QUALIFIED DECEDENT.**—For purposes of this section, the term ‘qualified decedent’ means—

“(1) any citizen or resident of the United States dying while in active service of the Armed Forces of the United States, if such decedent—

“(A) was killed in action while serving in a combat zone, as determined under section 112(c), or

“(B) died as a result of wounds, disease, or injury suffered while serving in a combat zone (as determined under section 112(c)), and while in the line of duty, by reason of a hazard to which such decedent was subjected as an incident of such service, or

“(2) any individual who died as a result of wounds or injury incurred as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States on April 19, 1995, or September 11, 2001, or who died as a result of illness incurred as a result of a terrorist attack involving anthrax occurring on or after September 11, 2001, and before January 1, 2002.

Paragraph (2) shall not apply with respect to any individual identified by the Attorney General to have been a participant or conspirator in any such terrorist attack, or a representative of such individual.

“(c) **RATE SCHEDULE.**—

“If the amount with respect to which the tentative tax to be computed is:	The tentative tax is:
Not over \$150,000	1 percent of the amount by which such amount exceeds \$100,000.
Over \$150,000 but not over \$200,000.	\$500 plus 2 percent of the excess over \$150,000.
Over \$200,000 but not over \$300,000.	\$1,500 plus 3 percent of the excess over \$200,000.
Over \$300,000 but not over \$500,000.	\$4,500 plus 4 percent of the excess over \$300,000.
Over \$500,000 but not over \$700,000.	\$12,500 plus 5 percent of the excess over \$500,000.
Over \$700,000 but not over \$900,000.	\$22,500 plus 6 percent of the excess over \$700,000.
Over \$900,000 but not over \$1,100,000.	\$34,500 plus 7 percent of the excess over \$900,000.
Over \$1,100,000 but not over \$1,600,000.	\$48,500 plus 8 percent of the excess over \$1,100,000.
Over \$1,600,000 but not over \$2,100,000.	\$88,500 plus 9 percent of the excess over \$1,600,000.
Over \$2,100,000 but not over \$2,600,000.	\$133,500 plus 10 percent of the excess over \$2,100,000.

"If the amount with respect to which the tentative tax to be computed is:	The tentative tax is:
Over \$2,600,000 but not over \$3,100,000.	\$183,500 plus 11 percent of the excess over \$2,600,000.
Over \$3,100,000 but not over \$3,600,000.	\$238,500 plus 12 percent of the excess over \$3,100,000.
Over \$3,600,000 but not over \$4,100,000.	\$298,500 plus 13 percent of the excess over \$3,600,000.
Over \$4,100,000 but not over \$5,100,000.	\$363,500 plus 14 percent of the excess over \$4,100,000.
Over \$5,100,000 but not over \$6,100,000.	\$503,500 plus 15 percent of the excess over \$5,100,000.
Over \$6,100,000 but not over \$7,100,000.	\$653,500 plus 16 percent of the excess over \$6,100,000.
Over \$7,100,000 but not over \$8,100,000.	\$813,500 plus 17 percent of the excess over \$7,100,000.
Over \$8,100,000 but not over \$9,100,000.	\$983,500 plus 18 percent of the excess over \$8,100,000.
Over \$9,100,000 but not over \$10,100,000.	\$1,163,500 plus 19 percent of the excess over \$9,100,000.
Over \$10,100,000	\$1,353,500 plus 20 percent of the excess over \$10,100,000.

"(d) DETERMINATION OF UNIFIED CREDIT.—In the case of an estate to which this section applies, subsection (a) shall not apply in determining the credit under section 2010."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 2011 is amended by striking subsection (d) and by redesignating subsections (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (d), (e), and (f), respectively.

(2) Section 2053(d)(3)(B) is amended by striking "section 2011(e)" and inserting "section 2011(d)".

(3) Paragraph (9) of section 532(c) of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 is repealed.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 2201 in the table of sections for subchapter C of chapter 11 is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 2201. Combat zone-related deaths of members of the Armed Forces and deaths of victims of certain terrorist attacks."

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE; WAIVER OF LIMITATIONS.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to estates of decedents—

(A) dying on or after September 11, 2001, and

(B) in the case of individuals dying as a result of the April 19, 1995, terrorist attack, dying on or after April 19, 1995.

(2) WAIVER OF LIMITATIONS.—If refund or credit of any overpayment of tax resulting from the amendments made by this section is prevented at any time before the close of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act by the operation of any law or rule of law (including res judicata), such refund or credit may nevertheless be made or allowed if claim therefor is filed before the close of such period.

SEC. 103. PAYMENTS BY CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS TREATED AS EXEMPT PAYMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986—

(1) payments made by an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of such Code by reason of the death, injury, wounding, or illness of an individual incurred as the result of the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, or a terrorist attack involving anthrax occurring on or after September 11, 2001, and before January 1, 2002, shall be treated as related to the purpose or function constituting the basis for

such organization's exemption under section 501 of such Code if such payments are made using an objective formula which is consistently applied, and

(2) in the case of a private foundation (as defined in section 509 of such Code), any payment described in paragraph (1) shall not be treated as made to a disqualified person for purposes of section 4941 of such Code.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply to payments made on or after September 11, 2001.

SEC. 104. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN CANCELLATIONS OF INDEBTEDNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986—

(1) gross income shall not include any amount which (but for this section) would be includible in gross income by reason of the discharge (in whole or in part) of indebtedness of any taxpayer if the discharge is by reason of the death of an individual incurred as the result of the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, or a terrorist attack involving anthrax occurring on or after September 11, 2001, and before January 1, 2002, and

(2) return requirements under section 6050P of such Code shall not apply to any discharge described in paragraph (1).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply to discharges made on or after September 11, 2001, and before January 1, 2002.

SEC. 105. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS AND DISABILITY TRUSTS.

(a) IMPOSITION OF EXCISE TAX ON PERSONS WHO ACQUIRE CERTAIN STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS IN FACTORING TRANSACTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E is amended by adding at the end the following new chapter:

"CHAPTER 55—STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT FACTORING TRANSACTIONS

"Sec. 5891. Structured settlement factoring transactions for certain victims of terrorism.

"SEC. 5891. STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT FACTORING TRANSACTIONS FOR CERTAIN VICTIMS OF TERRORISM.

"(a) IMPOSITION OF TAX.—There is hereby imposed on any person who acquires directly or indirectly structured settlement payment rights in a structured settlement factoring transaction a tax equal to 40 percent of the factoring discount as determined under subsection (c)(4) with respect to such factoring transaction.

"(b) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN APPROVED TRANSACTIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The tax under subsection (a) shall not apply in the case of a structured settlement factoring transaction in which the transfer of structured settlement payment rights is approved in advance in a qualified order.

"(2) QUALIFIED ORDER.—For purposes of this section, the term 'qualified order' means a final order, judgment, or decree which—

"(A) finds that the transfer described in paragraph (1)—

"(i) does not contravene any Federal or State statute or the order of any court or responsible administrative authority, and

"(ii) is in the best interest of the payee, taking into account the welfare and support of the payee's dependents, and

"(B) is issued—

"(i) under the authority of an applicable State statute by an applicable State court, or

"(ii) by the responsible administrative authority (if any) which has exclusive jurisdiction over the underlying action or proceeding which was resolved by means of the structured settlement.

"(3) APPLICABLE STATE STATUTE.—For purposes of this section, the term 'applicable

State statute' means a statute providing for the entry of an order, judgment, or decree described in paragraph (2)(A) which is enacted by—

"(A) the State in which the payee of the structured settlement is domiciled, or

"(B) if there is no statute described in subparagraph (A), the State in which either the party to the structured settlement (including an assignee under a qualified assignment under section 130) or the person issuing the funding asset for the structured settlement is domiciled or has its principal place of business.

"(4) APPLICABLE STATE COURT.—For purposes of this section—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'applicable State court' means, with respect to any applicable State statute, a court of the State which enacted such statute.

"(B) SPECIAL RULE.—In the case of an applicable State statute described in paragraph (3)(B), such term also includes a court of the State in which the payee of the structured settlement is domiciled.

"(5) QUALIFIED ORDER DISPOSITIVE.—A qualified order shall be treated as dispositive for purposes of the exception under this subsection.

"(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT.—The term 'structured settlement' means an arrangement—

"(A) which is established by—

"(i) suit or agreement for the periodic payment of damages excludable from the gross income of the recipient under section 104(a)(2), or

"(ii) agreement for the periodic payment of compensation under any workers' compensation law excludable from the gross income of the recipient under section 104(a)(1), and

"(B) under which the periodic payments are—

"(i) of the character described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 130(c)(2), and

"(ii) payable by a person who is a party to the suit or agreement or to the workers' compensation claim or by a person who has assumed the liability for such periodic payments under a qualified assignment in accordance with section 130.

"(2) STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PAYMENT RIGHTS.—The term 'structured settlement payment rights' means rights to receive payments under a structured settlement relating to claims for death, wounding, injury, or illness as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, or a terrorist attack involving anthrax occurring on or after September 11, 2001, and before January 1, 2002.

"(3) STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT FACTORING TRANSACTION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'structured settlement factoring transaction' means a transfer of structured settlement payment rights (including portions of structured settlement payments) made for consideration by means of sale, assignment, pledge, or other form of encumbrance or alienation for consideration.

"(B) EXCEPTION.—Such term shall not include—

"(i) the creation or perfection of a security interest in structured settlement payment rights under a blanket security agreement entered into with an insured depository institution in the absence of any action to redirect the structured settlement payments to such institution (or agent or successor thereof) or otherwise to enforce such blanket security interest as against the structured settlement payment rights, or

"(ii) a subsequent transfer of structured settlement payment rights acquired in a structured settlement factoring transaction.

“(4) FACTORING DISCOUNT.—The term ‘factoring discount’ means an amount equal to the excess of—

“(A) the aggregate undiscounted amount of structured settlement payments being acquired in the structured settlement factoring transaction, over

“(B) the total amount actually paid by the acquirer to the person from whom such structured settlement payments are acquired.

“(5) RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY.—The term ‘responsible administrative authority’ means the administrative authority which had jurisdiction over the underlying action or proceeding which was resolved by means of the structured settlement.

“(6) STATE.—The term ‘State’ includes the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and any possession of the United States.

“(d) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROVISIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the applicable requirements of sections 72, 104(a)(1), 104(a)(2), 130, and 461(h) were satisfied at the time the structured settlement involving structured settlement payment rights was entered into, the subsequent occurrence of a structured settlement factoring transaction shall not affect the application of the provisions of such sections to the parties to the structured settlement (including an assignee under a qualified assignment under section 130) in any taxable year.

“(2) NO WITHHOLDING OF TAX.—The provisions of section 3405 regarding withholding of tax shall not apply to the person making the payments in the event of a structured settlement factoring transaction.

“(3) NO INFERENCE.—No inference shall be drawn from the application of this subsection to only those payment rights described in subsection (c)(2).”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for subtitle E is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Chapter 55. Structured settlement factoring transactions.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this subsection (other than the provisions of section 5891(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by this subsection) shall apply to structured settlement factoring transactions (as defined in section 5891(c) of such Code (as so added)) entered into on or after the 30th day following the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) CLARIFICATION OF EXISTING LAW.—Section 5891(d) of such Code (as so added) shall apply to structured settlement factoring transactions (as defined in section 5891(c) of such Code (as so added)) entered into on or after such 30th day.

(C) TRANSITION RULE.—In the case of a structured settlement factoring transaction entered into during the period beginning on the 30th day following the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on July 1, 2002, no tax shall be imposed under section 5891(a) of such Code if—

(i) the structured settlement payee is domiciled in a State (or possession of the United States) which has not enacted a statute providing that the structured settlement factoring transaction is ineffective unless the transaction has been approved by an order, judgment, or decree of a court (or where applicable, a responsible administrative authority) which finds that such transaction—

(I) does not contravene any Federal or State statute or the order of any court (or responsible administrative authority), and

(II) is in the best interest of the structured settlement payee or is appropriate in light of a hardship faced by the payee, and

(ii) the person acquiring the structured settlement payment rights discloses to the structured settlement payee in advance of the structured settlement factoring transaction the amounts and due dates of the payments to be transferred, the aggregate amount to be transferred, the consideration to be received by the structured settlement payee for the transferred payments, the discounted present value of the transferred payments (including the present value as determined in the manner described in section 7520 of such Code), and the expenses required under the terms of the structured settlement factoring transaction to be paid by the structured settlement payee or deducted from the proceeds of such transaction.

(b) PERSONAL EXEMPTION DEDUCTION FOR CERTAIN DISABILITY TRUSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 642(b) (relating to deduction for personal exemption) is amended—

(A) by striking “An estate” and inserting: “(1) IN GENERAL.—An estate”, and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) FULL PERSONAL EXEMPTION AMOUNT FOR CERTAIN DISABILITY TRUSTS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply, and the deduction under section 151 shall apply, to any disability trust described in subsection (c)(2)(B)(iv), (d)(4)(A), or (d)(4)(C) of section 1917 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396p) for a beneficiary disabled as the result of a wounding, injury, or illness as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States on April 19, 1995, or September 11, 2001, or a terrorist attack involving anthrax occurring on or after September 11, 2001, and before January 1, 2002.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE; WAIVER OF LIMITATIONS.—

(A) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years ending before, on, or after September 11, 2001.

(B) WAIVER OF LIMITATIONS.—If refund or credit of any overpayment of tax resulting from the amendments made by this subsection is prevented at any time before the close of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act by the operation of any law or rule of law (including *res judicata*), such refund or credit may nevertheless be made or allowed if claim therefor is filed before the close of such period.

SEC. 106. NO IMPACT ON SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this title (or an amendment made by this title) shall be construed to alter or amend title II of the Social Security Act (or any regulation promulgated under that Act).

(b) TRANSFERS.—

(1) ESTIMATE OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall annually estimate the impact that the enactment of this Act has on the income and balances of the trust funds established under section 201 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401).

(2) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—If, under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Treasury estimates that the enactment of this Act has a negative impact on the income and balances of the trust funds established under section 201 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401), the Secretary shall transfer, not less frequently than quarterly, from the general revenues of the Federal Government an amount sufficient so as to ensure that the income and balances of such trust funds are not reduced as a result of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—GENERAL RELIEF FOR VICTIMS OF DISASTERS AND TERRORISTIC OR MILITARY ACTIONS

SEC. 201. EXCLUSION FOR DISASTER RELIEF PAYMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 (relating to items specifically excluded from gross income) is amended by redesignating section 139 as section 140 and inserting after section 138 the following new section:

“SEC. 139. DISASTER RELIEF PAYMENTS.

“(a) GENERAL RULE.—Gross income shall not include—

“(1) any amount received as payment under section 406 of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, or

“(2) any amount received by an individual as a qualified disaster relief payment.

“(b) QUALIFIED DISASTER RELIEF PAYMENT DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘qualified disaster relief payment’ means any amount paid to or for the benefit of an individual—

“(1) to reimburse or pay reasonable and necessary personal, family, living, or funeral expenses incurred as a result of a qualified disaster,

“(2) to reimburse or pay reasonable and necessary expenses incurred for the repair or rehabilitation of a personal residence or repair or replacement of its contents to the extent that the need for such repair, rehabilitation, or replacement is attributable to a qualified disaster,

“(3) by a person engaged in the furnishing or sale of transportation as a common carrier by reason of the death or personal physical injuries incurred as a result of a qualified disaster, or

“(4) if such amount is paid by a Federal, State, or local government, or agency or instrumentality thereof, in connection with a qualified disaster in order to promote the general welfare,

but only to the extent any expense compensated by such payment is not otherwise compensated for by insurance or otherwise.

“(c) QUALIFIED DISASTER DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘qualified disaster’ means—

“(1) a disaster which results from a terrorist or military action (as defined in section 692(c)(2)),

“(2) a Presidentially declared disaster (as defined in section 1033(h)(3)),

“(3) a disaster which results from an accident involving a common carrier, or from any other event, which is determined by the Secretary to be of a catastrophic nature, or

“(4) with respect to amounts described in subsection (b)(4), a disaster which is determined by an applicable Federal, State, or local authority (as determined by the Secretary) to warrant assistance from the Federal, State, or local government or agency or instrumentality thereof.

“(d) COORDINATION WITH EMPLOYMENT TAXES.—For purposes of chapter 2 and subtitle C, a qualified disaster relief payment shall not be treated as net earnings from self-employment, wages, or compensation subject to tax.

“(e) NO RELIEF FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to any individual identified by the Attorney General to have been a participant or conspirator in a terroristic action (as so defined), or a representative of such individual.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 139 and inserting the following new items:

“Sec. 139. Disaster relief payments.

“Sec. 140. Cross references to other Acts.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years ending on or after September 11, 2001.

SEC. 202. AUTHORITY TO POSTPONE CERTAIN DEADLINES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS.

(a) EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO DISASTERS AND TERRORISTIC OR MILITARY ACTIONS.—Section 7508A is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7508A. AUTHORITY TO POSTPONE CERTAIN DEADLINES BY REASON OF PRESIDENTIALLY DECLARED DISASTER OR TERRORISTIC OR MILITARY ACTIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a taxpayer determined by the Secretary to be affected by a Presidentially declared disaster (as defined in section 1033(h)(3)) or a terroristic or military action (as defined in section 692(c)(2)), the Secretary may specify a period of up to one year that may be disregarded in determining, under the internal revenue laws, in respect of any tax liability of such taxpayer—

“(1) whether any of the acts described in paragraph (1) of section 7508(a) were performed within the time prescribed therefor (determined without regard to extension under any other provision of this subtitle for periods after the date (determined by the Secretary) of such disaster or action),

“(2) the amount of any interest, penalty, additional amount, or addition to the tax for periods after such date, and

“(3) the amount of any credit or refund.

(b) SPECIAL RULES REGARDING PENSIONS, ETC.—In the case of a pension or other employee benefit plan, or any sponsor, administrator, participant, beneficiary, or other person with respect to such plan, affected by a disaster or action described in subsection (a), the Secretary may specify a period of up to one year which may be disregarded in determining the date by which any action is required or permitted to be completed under this title. No plan shall be treated as failing to be operated in accordance with the terms of the plan solely as the result of disregarding any period by reason of the preceding sentence.

“(c) SPECIAL RULES FOR OVERPAYMENTS.—The rules of section 7508(b) shall apply for purposes of this section.”

(b) CLARIFICATION OF SCOPE OF ACTS SECRETARY MAY POSTPONE.—Section 7508(a)(1)(K) (relating to time to be disregarded) is amended by striking “in regulations prescribed under this section”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO ERISA.—(1) Part 5 of subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 518. AUTHORITY TO POSTPONE CERTAIN DEADLINES BY REASON OF PRESIDENTIALLY DECLARED DISASTER OR TERRORISTIC OR MILITARY ACTIONS.

“In the case of a pension or other employee benefit plan, or any sponsor, administrator, participant, beneficiary, or other person with respect to such plan, affected by a Presidentially declared disaster (as defined in section 1033(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) or a terroristic or military action (as defined in section 692(c)(2) of such Code), the Secretary may, notwithstanding any other provision of law, prescribe, by notice or otherwise, a period of up to one year which may be disregarded in determining the date by which any action is required or permitted to be completed under this Act. No plan shall be treated as failing to be operated in accordance with the terms of the plan solely as the result of disregarding any period by reason of the preceding sentence.”

(2) Section 4002 of Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1302) is

amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) SPECIAL RULES REGARDING DISASTERS, ETC.—In the case of a pension or other employee benefit plan, or any sponsor, administrator, participant, beneficiary, or other person with respect to such plan, affected by a Presidentially declared disaster (as defined in section 1033(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) or a terroristic or military action (as defined in section 692(c)(2) of such Code), the corporation may, notwithstanding any other provision of law, prescribe, by notice or otherwise, a period of up to one year which may be disregarded in determining the date by which any action is required or permitted to be completed under this Act. No plan shall be treated as failing to be operated in accordance with the terms of the plan solely as the result of disregarding any period by reason of the preceding sentence.”

(d) ADDITIONAL CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 6404 is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (h),

(B) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (h), and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) CROSS REFERENCE.—

“For authority of the Secretary to abate certain amounts by reason of Presidentially declared disaster or terroristic or military action, see section 7508A.”

(2) Section 6081(c) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) CROSS REFERENCES.—

“For time for performing certain acts postponed by reason of war, see section 7508, and by reason of Presidentially declared disaster or terroristic or military action, see section 7508A.”

(3) Section 6161(d) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) POSTPONEMENT OF CERTAIN ACTS.—

“For time for performing certain acts postponed by reason of war, see section 7508, and by reason of Presidentially declared disaster or terroristic or military action, see section 7508A.”

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The item relating to section 7508A in the table of sections for chapter 77 is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 7508A. Authority to postpone certain deadlines by reason of Presidentially declared disaster or terroristic or military actions.”

(2) The table of contents for the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 517 the following new item:

“Sec. 518. Authority to postpone certain deadlines by reason of Presidentially declared disaster or terroristic or military actions.”

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to disasters and terroristic or military actions occurring on or after September 11, 2001, with respect to any action of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Labor, or the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation occurring on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 203. INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7508A, as amended by section 202(a), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) DUTIES OF DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM.—The Secretary shall establish as a permanent

office in the national office of the Internal Revenue Service a disaster response team which, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall assist taxpayers in clarifying and resolving Federal tax matters associated with or resulting from any Presidentially declared disaster (as defined in section 1033(h)(3)) or a terroristic or military action (as defined in section 692(c)(2)).”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 204. APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS TO TERRORISTIC OR MILITARY ACTIONS.

(a) EXCLUSION FOR DEATH BENEFITS.—Section 101 (relating to certain death benefits) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) CERTAIN EMPLOYEE DEATH BENEFITS PAYABLE BY REASON OF DEATH FROM TERRORISTIC OR MILITARY ACTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Gross income does not include amounts which are received (whether in a single sum or otherwise) if such amounts are paid by an employer by reason of the death of an employee incurred as a result of a terroristic or military action (as defined in section 692(c)(2)).

“(2) NO RELIEF FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to any individual identified by the Attorney General to have been a participant or conspirator in a terroristic action (as so defined), or a representative of such individual.

“(3) TREATMENT OF SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘employee’ includes a self-employed person (as described in section 401(c)(1)).”

(b) DISABILITY INCOME.—Section 104(a)(5) (relating to compensation for injuries or sickness) is amended by striking “a violent attack” and all that follows through the period and inserting “a terroristic or military action (as defined in section 692(c)(2)).”

(c) EXEMPTION FROM INCOME TAX FOR CERTAIN MILITARY OR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.—Section 692(c) is amended—

(1) by striking “outside the United States” in paragraph (1), and

(2) by striking “SUSTAINED OVERSEAS” in the heading.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years ending on or after September 11, 2001.

SEC. 205. CLARIFICATION OF DUE DATE FOR AIRLINE EXCISE TAX DEPOSITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 301(a) of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (Public Law 107-42) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) AIRLINE-RELATED DEPOSIT.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘airline-related deposit’ means any deposit of taxes imposed by subchapter C of chapter 33 of such Code (relating to transportation by air).”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect as if included in section 301 of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (Public Law 107-42).

SEC. 206. COORDINATION WITH AIR TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND SYSTEM STABILIZATION ACT.

No reduction in Federal tax liability by reason of any provision of, or amendment made by, this Act shall be considered as being received from a collateral source for purposes of section 402(4) of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (Public Law 107-42).

TITLE III—DISCLOSURE OF TAX INFORMATION IN TERRORISM AND NATIONAL SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS

SEC. 301. DISCLOSURE OF TAX INFORMATION IN TERRORISM AND NATIONAL SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS.

(a) DISCLOSURE WITHOUT A REQUEST OF INFORMATION RELATING TO TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, ETC.—Paragraph (3) of section 6103(i) (relating to disclosure of return information to apprise appropriate officials of criminal activities or emergency circumstances) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, ETC.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), the Secretary may disclose in writing return information (other than taxpayer return information) that may be related to a terrorist incident, threat, or activity to the extent necessary to apprise the head of the appropriate Federal law enforcement agency responsible for investigating or responding to such terrorist incident, threat, or activity. The head of the agency may disclose such return information to officers and employees of such agency to the extent necessary to investigate or respond to such terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

“(ii) DISCLOSURE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—Returns and taxpayer return information may also be disclosed to the Attorney General under clause (i) to the extent necessary for, and solely for use in preparing, an application under paragraph (7)(D).

“(iii) TAXPAYER IDENTITY.—For purposes of this subparagraph, a taxpayer’s identity shall not be treated as taxpayer return information.

“(iv) TERMINATION.—No disclosure may be made under this subparagraph after December 31, 2003.”

(b) DISCLOSURE UPON REQUEST OF INFORMATION RELATING TO TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, ETC.—Subsection (i) of section 6103 (relating to disclosure to Federal officers or employees for administration of Federal laws not relating to tax administration) is amended by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8) and by inserting after paragraph (6) the following new paragraph:

“(7) DISCLOSURE UPON REQUEST OF INFORMATION RELATING TO TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, ETC.—

“(A) DISCLOSURE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), upon receipt by the Secretary of a written request which meets the requirements of clause (iii), the Secretary may disclose return information (other than taxpayer return information) to officers and employees of any Federal law enforcement agency who are personally and directly engaged in the response to or investigation of any terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

“(ii) DISCLOSURE TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—The head of any Federal law enforcement agency may disclose return information obtained under clause (i) to officers and employees of any State or local law enforcement agency but only if such agency is part of a team with the Federal law enforcement agency in such response or investigation and such information is disclosed only to officers and employees who are personally and directly engaged in such response or investigation.

“(iii) REQUIREMENTS.—A request meets the requirements of this clause if—

“(I) the request is made by the head of any Federal law enforcement agency (or his delegate) involved in the response to or investigation of any terrorist incident, threat, or activity, and

“(II) the request sets forth the specific reason or reasons why such disclosure may be

relevant to a terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

“(iv) LIMITATION ON USE OF INFORMATION.—Information disclosed under this subparagraph shall be solely for the use of the officers and employees to whom such information is disclosed in such response or investigation.

“(B) DISCLOSURE TO INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), upon receipt by the Secretary of a written request which meets the requirements of clause (ii), the Secretary may disclose return information (other than taxpayer return information) to those officers and employees of the Department of Justice, the Department of the Treasury, and other Federal intelligence agencies who are personally and directly engaged in the collection or analysis of intelligence and counterintelligence information or investigation concerning any terrorist incident, threat, or activity. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the information disclosed under the preceding sentence shall be solely for the use of such officers and employees in such investigation, collection, or analysis.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—A request meets the requirements of this subparagraph if the request—

“(I) is made by an individual described in clause (iii), and

“(II) sets forth the specific reason or reasons why such disclosure may be relevant to a terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

“(iii) REQUESTING INDIVIDUALS.—An individual described in this subparagraph is an individual—

“(I) who is an officer or employee of the Department of Justice or the Department of the Treasury who is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate or who is the Director of the United States Secret Service, and

“(II) who is responsible for the collection and analysis of intelligence and counterintelligence information concerning any terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

“(iv) TAXPAYER IDENTITY.—For purposes of this subparagraph, a taxpayer’s identity shall not be treated as taxpayer return information.

“(C) DISCLOSURE UNDER EX PARTE ORDERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), any return or return information with respect to any specified taxable period or periods shall, pursuant to and upon the grant of an ex parte order by a Federal district court judge or magistrate under clause (ii), be open (but only to the extent necessary as provided in such order) to inspection by, or disclosure to, officers and employees of any Federal law enforcement agency or Federal intelligence agency who are personally and directly engaged in any investigation, response to, or analysis of intelligence and counterintelligence information concerning any terrorist incident, threat, or activity. Return or return information opened pursuant to the preceding sentence shall be solely for the use of such officers and employees in the investigation, response, or analysis, and in any judicial, administrative, or grand jury proceedings, pertaining to such terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

“(ii) APPLICATION FOR ORDER.—The Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, the Associate Attorney General, any Assistant Attorney General, or any United States attorney may authorize an application to a Federal district court judge or magistrate for the order referred to in clause (i). Upon such application, such judge or magistrate may grant such order if he determines on the basis of the facts submitted by the applicant that—

“(I) there is reasonable cause to believe, based upon information believed to be reliable, that the return or return information may be relevant to a matter relating to such terrorist incident, threat, or activity, and

“(II) the return or return information is sought exclusively for use in a Federal investigation, analysis, or proceeding concerning any terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

“(D) SPECIAL RULE FOR EX PARTE DISCLOSURE BY THE IRS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), the Secretary may authorize an application to a Federal district court judge or magistrate for the order referred to in subparagraph (C)(i). Upon such application, such judge or magistrate may grant such order if he determines on the basis of the facts submitted by the applicant that the requirements of subparagraph (C)(ii)(I) are met.

“(ii) LIMITATION ON USE OF INFORMATION.—Information disclosed under clause (i)—

“(I) may be disclosed only to the extent necessary to apprise the head of the appropriate Federal law enforcement agency responsible for investigating or responding to a terrorist incident, threat, or activity, and

“(II) shall be solely for use in a Federal investigation, analysis, or proceeding concerning any terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

The head of such Federal agency may disclose such information to officers and employees of such agency to the extent necessary to investigate or respond to such terrorist incident, threat, or activity.

“(E) TERMINATION.—No disclosure may be made under this paragraph after December 31, 2003.”

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 6103(a)(2) is amended by inserting “any local law enforcement agency receiving information under subsection (i)(7)(A),” after “State.”

(2) Section 6103(b) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(1) TERRORIST INCIDENT, THREAT, OR ACTIVITY.—The term ‘terrorist incident, threat, or activity’ means an incident, threat, or activity involving an act of domestic terrorism (as defined in section 2331(5) of title 18, United States Code) or international terrorism (as defined in section 2331(1) of such title).”

(3) The heading of section 6103(i)(3) is amended by inserting “OR TERRORIST” after “CRIMINAL”.

(4) Paragraph (4) of section 6103(i) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by inserting “or (7)(C)” after “paragraph (1)”, and

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking “or (3)(A)” and inserting “(3)(A) or (C), or (7)”.

(5) Paragraph (6) of section 6103(i) is amended—

(A) by striking “(3)(A)” and inserting “(3)(A) or (C)”, and

(B) by striking “or (7)” and inserting “(7), or (8)”.

(6) Section 6103(p)(3) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “(7)(A)(ii)” and inserting “(8)(A)(ii)”, and

(B) in subparagraph (C) by striking “(i)(3)(B)(i)” and inserting “(i)(3)(B)(i) or (7)(A)(ii)”.

(7) Section 6103(p)(4) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “or (5),” the first place it appears and inserting “(5), or (7),” and

(ii) by striking “(i)(3)(B)(i),” and inserting “(i)(3)(B)(i) or (7)(A)(ii),” and

(B) in subparagraph (F)(ii) by striking “or (5),” the first place it appears and inserting “(5) or (7),”.

(8) Section 6103(p)(6)(B)(i) is amended by striking “(i)(7)(A)(ii)” and inserting “(i)(8)(A)(ii)”.

(9) Section 6105(b) is amended—

(A) by striking “or” at the end of paragraph (2),

(B) by striking “paragraphs (1) or (2)” in paragraph (3) and inserting “paragraph (1), (2), or (3)”.

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4), and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) to the disclosure of tax convention information on the same terms as return information may be disclosed under paragraph (3)(C) or (7) of section 6103(i), except that in the case of tax convention information provided by a foreign government, no disclosure may be made under this paragraph without the written consent of the foreign government, or”.

(10) Section 7213(a)(2) is amended by striking “(i)(3)(B)(i),” and inserting “(i)(3)(B)(i) or (7)(A)(ii).”

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to disclosures made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for victims of the terrorist attacks against the United States, and for other purposes.”.

SA 2164. Mr. REID (for Mr. KERRY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 174, to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the microloan program, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 3. MICROLOAN PROGRAM CORRECTION.

Section 7(m)(3)(F)(iii) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(3)(F)(iii)) is amended by striking “\$7,500” and inserting “\$10,000”.

SA 2165. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3090, to provide tax incentives for economic recovery; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, insert:

SEC. ____ . REDUCTION IN CAPITAL GAINS RATES FOR INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) 10-PERCENT RATE REDUCED TO 7 PERCENT.—Subparagraph (B) of section 1(h)(1), as amended by section 101, is amended by striking “10 percent” and inserting “7 percent”.

(2) 20-PERCENT RATE REDUCED TO 15 PERCENT.—Subparagraph (C) of section 1(h)(1) is amended by striking “20 percent” and inserting “15 percent”.

(4) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 57(a)(7) is amended—
(i) by striking “42 percent” and inserting “28 percent”, and

(ii) by striking the last sentence.

(B) Paragraph (1) of section 1445(e) is amended by striking “20 percent” and inserting “15 percent”.

(C) The second sentence of section 7518(g)(6)(A), and the second sentence of section 607(h)(6)(A) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, are each amended by striking “20 percent” and inserting “15 percent”.

(b) REPEAL OF REDUCED RATES FOR QUALIFIED 5-YEAR GAIN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1(h), as amended by section 101, is amended by striking paragraphs (2) and (9), by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (8) as paragraphs (2) through (7), respectively, and by redesignating paragraphs (10) through (12) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subparagraph (A)(ii) of section 1(h)(6), as redesignated by paragraph (1), is amended—

(A) in subclause (I) by striking “paragraph (5)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (4)(B)”, and

(B) in subclause (II) by striking “paragraph (5)(A)” and inserting “paragraph (4)(A)”.

(c) MINIMUM TAX.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) 10-PERCENT RATE REDUCED TO 7 PERCENT.—Subparagraph (B) of section 55(b)(3) is amended by striking “10 percent” and inserting “7 percent”.

(B) 20-PERCENT RATE REDUCED TO 15 PERCENT.—Subparagraph (C) of section 55(b)(3) is amended by striking “20 percent” and inserting “15 percent”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (3) of section 55(b) is amended in the matter following subparagraph (D) by striking “In the case of taxable years beginning after December 31, 2000, rules similar to the rules of section 1(h)(2) shall apply for purposes of subparagraphs (B) and (C).”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to sales or exchanges after the date of the enactment of this Act, in taxable years ending after such date.

(2) WITHHOLDING.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(3)(B) shall apply to amounts paid after the date of the enactment of this Act.

MICROLOAN PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 55, S. 174.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 174) a bill to extend the Small Business Act with respect to the Microloan Program, and for other purposes.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2164

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senator KERRY has an amendment at the desk. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] for Mr. KERRY proposes an amendment numbered 2164.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To correct a loan amount for purposes of the small business microloan program)

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 3. MICROLOAN PROGRAM CORRECTION.

Section 7(m)(3)(F)(iii) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(3)(F)(iii)) is amended by striking “\$7,500” and inserting “\$10,000.”

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am here today to urge passage of a bill to improve the U.S. Small Business Administration's Microloan Program, a program which makes an enormous difference to many aspiring entrepreneurs through very small loans of up to \$35,000. The demand for these loans go

up when the economy slows down and people lose their jobs or face reduced hours because they often start their own business or start a part-time venture to patch their income losses.

Senator SNOWE worked very closely with me to make this day happen. We wish to thank Senators BOND, WELLSTONE, CLELAND, LANDRIEU, HARKIN, LEVIN, LIEBERMAN, BINGAMAN, ENZI, KOHL, SNOWE, JOHNSON, DASCHLE, CONRAD, BURNS, INOUE, BAUCUS, and JEFFORDS for joining us and cosponsoring this bill.

Senator SNOWE and I have worked together many times on this program, pushing to make sure our country's smallest businesses have access to capital and business assistance. In this instance, we are bringing before the Senate changes that the Senate supported unanimously as part of its version of last year's SBA Reauthorization bill, but were not included by the House because they had not considered them in a hearing. This package of changes was reintroduced this year and supported unanimously by the Senate Small Business Committee. This bill amends the Small Business Administration's Microloan Program to make it more flexible to meet credit needs, more accessible to microentrepreneurs across the nation, and more streamlined for leaders to make loans and provide management assistance. The changes in this bill complement the program and technical changes made last year.

The program provides for microloans, of just \$10,000, on average, in order to allow many prospective entrepreneurs to realize their dream and start their own business. This provides them with financial independence and sometimes allows individuals to go from welfare to employment.

Let me just run through some of the provisions of the Microloan Program Improvement Act of 2001. First, it eliminates the requirement that SBA microloans be “short-term” loans. This change will give intermediaries greater latitude in developing microloan products because they will be able to offer their borrowers revolving lines of credit. It will also cut transaction costs for both the borrower and the microlender and will generally make it easier to fund these types of very small businesses.

Why are revolving lines of credit important? Because seasonal types of businesses really need revolving lines of credit instead of, for instance, a 90- or 120-day note. For example, if you are a building contractor or painter, you may need \$15,000 to front supplies and pay your workers because most clients only pay when the work is done. So, under the current scenario, if you were to borrow the \$15,000 from a microlender, you would pay back small payments at the 30 and 60 day markers. The entire remaining balance would be due upon receipt of payment from your client. Then, when the next client came along, the borrower would have to enter into an entirely new loan