

AUTHORIZATION FOR PRINTING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 90, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 90) authorizing the printing of a revised and updated version of the House document entitled "Hispanic Americans in Congress."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statement relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 90) was agreed to.

AUTHORIZATION FOR PRINTING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 244 and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 244) authorizing the printing of a revised edition of the publication entitled "Our Flag."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 244) was agreed to.

CONNECTICUT RIVER ATLANTIC SALMON COMPACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 151, S. 703.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 703) to extend the effective period of the consent of Congress to the interstate compact relating to the restoration of Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut River Basin and creating the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Stevens amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to and that no other amendments be in order, that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2461) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the method for financing the fishing capacity reduction program required under the Miscellaneous Appropriations Act, 2001)

On page 2, after line 14, insert the following new section:

SEC. 2. FISHING CAPACITY REDUCTION PROGRAM.

Section 144(d)(4)(A) of division B of the Miscellaneous Appropriations Act, 2001 (as enacted into law by section 1(a)(4) of Public Law 106-554; 114 Stat. 27663A-242) is amended—

(1) by striking "in equal parts through a reduction loan of \$50,000,000" and inserting "through any combination of a reduction loan of up to \$100,000,000"; and

(2) by striking "and \$50,000,000" and inserting "and up to \$50,000,000".

The bill (S. 703), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 703

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONNECTICUT RIVER ATLANTIC SALMON COMPACT.

(a) EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT.—Section 3(2) of Public Law 98-138 (97 Stat. 870) is amended by striking "twenty years" and inserting "40 years".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Public Law 98-138 (97 Stat. 866) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the activities of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission \$9,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2010."

SEC. 2. FISHING CAPACITY REDUCTION PROGRAM.

Section 144(d)(4)(A) of division B of the Miscellaneous Appropriations Act, 2001 (as enacted into law by section 1(a)(4) of Public Law 106-554; 114 Stat. 2763A-242) is amended—

(1) by striking "in equal parts through a reduction loan of \$50,000,000" and inserting "through any combination of a reduction loan of up to \$100,000,000"; and

(2) by striking "and \$50,000,000" and inserting "and up to \$50,000,000".

DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ESTABLISHMENT ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1230, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1230) to provide for the establishment of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge in the State of Michigan, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table without any intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The bill (H.R. 1230) was read the third time and passed.

TANF SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS ACT OF 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 216, S. 942.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 942) to authorize the supplemental grant for population increases in certain States under the temporary assistance to needy families program for fiscal year 2002.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "TANF Supplemental Grants Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF TANF SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS FOR POPULATION INCREASES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002.

Section 403(a)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(H) REAUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph—

"(i) any State that was a qualifying State under this paragraph for fiscal year 2001 or any prior fiscal year shall be entitled to receive from the Secretary for fiscal year 2002 a grant in an amount equal to the amount required to be paid to the State under this paragraph for the most recent fiscal year in which the State was a qualifying State;

"(ii) subparagraph (G) shall be applied as if '2002' were substituted for '2001'; and

"(iii) out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated for fiscal year 2002 such sums as are necessary for grants under this subparagraph."

SEC. 3. FISCAL YEAR 2002 TANF PAYMENTS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any payment under section 403 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603) that would otherwise be sent to a State on September 30, 2002, by the Secretary of the Treasury shall be sent on October 1, 2002.

SEC. 4. TANF BONUSES FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE STATES.

(a) RESCISSION.—Effective upon the date of enactment of this Act or October 1, 2001, whichever is later, \$319,000,000 of the amount appropriated under section 403(a)(4)(F) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(4)(F)) is rescinded.

(b) APPROPRIATION.—Effective October 1, 2002, out of any money in the Treasury of the United

States not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated \$319,000,000 for bonus grants under section 403(a)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(4)). Amounts appropriated under this subsection shall be in addition to amounts appropriated under subparagraph (F) of section 403(a)(4) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(4)).

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the committee substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 942), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

VETERANS' BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 194, S. 1088.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1088) to amend title 38, United States Code, to facilitate the use of educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill for education leading to employment in high technology industry, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2001”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—EDUCATION MATTERS

Sec. 101. Increase in rates of basic educational assistance under Montgomery GI Bill.

Sec. 102. Authority for accelerated payments of basic educational assistance under Montgomery GI Bill.

Sec. 103. Accelerated payments of educational assistance under Montgomery GI Bill for education leading to employment in high technology industry.

Sec. 104. Eligibility for Montgomery GI Bill benefits of certain additional Vietnam era veterans.

Sec. 105. Inclusion of certain private technology entities in definition of educational institution.

TITLE II—COMPENSATION AND PENSION MATTERS

Sec. 201. Modification and extension of authorities on presumption of service-connection for herbicide-related disabilities of Vietnam era veterans.

Sec. 202. Compensation for disabilities of Persian Gulf War veterans.

Sec. 203. Exclusion of certain additional income from determinations of annual income for pension purposes.

Sec. 204. Time limitation on receipt of claim information pursuant to request by Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 205. Effective date of change in recurring income for pension purposes.

Sec. 206. Prohibition on provision of certain benefits with respect to veterans who are fugitive felons.

Sec. 207. Limitation on payment of compensation for veterans remaining incarcerated for felonies committed before October 7, 1980.

Sec. 208. Repeal of limitation on payments of benefits to incompetent institutionalized veterans.

Sec. 209. Extension of certain expiring authorities.

TITLE III—HOUSING MATTERS

Sec. 301. Increase in home loan guaranty amount for construction and purchase of homes.

Sec. 302. Four-year extension of Native American Veterans Housing Loan Program.

Sec. 303. Extension of other expiring authorities.

TITLE IV—BURIAL MATTERS

Sec. 401. Increase in burial and funeral expense benefit for veterans who die of service-connected disabilities.

Sec. 402. Authority to provide bronze grave markers for privately marked graves.

TITLE V—OTHER BENEFITS MATTERS

Sec. 501. Repeal of fiscal year limitation on number of veterans in programs of independent living services and assistance.

TITLE VI—UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

Sec. 601. Temporary expansion of United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to facilitate staggered terms of judges.

Sec. 602. Repeal of requirement for written notice regarding acceptance of reappointment as condition to retirement from United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Sec. 603. Termination of notice of disagreement as jurisdictional requirement for United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Sec. 604. Registration fees.

Sec. 605. Administrative authorities.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES 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 title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—EDUCATION MATTERS

SEC. 101. INCREASE IN RATES OF BASIC EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER MONTGOMERY GI BILL.

(a) **ACTIVE DUTY EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**—Section 3015 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “\$650 (as increased from time to time under subsection (h))” and inserting “\$700, for months beginning after September 30, 2001, but before September 30, 2002, \$800 for months beginning after September 30, 2002, but before September 30, 2003, and \$950 for months beginning after September 30, 2003, but before September 30, 2004, and as increased from time to time under subsection (h) after September 30, 2004,”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “\$528 (as increased from time to time under subsection (h))” and inserting “\$569, for months beginning after September 30, 2001, but before September 30, 2002, \$650 for months beginning after September 30, 2002, but before September 30, 2003,

and \$772 for months beginning after September 30, 2003, but before September 30, 2004, and as increased from time to time under subsection (h) after September 30, 2004,”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2001, and shall apply with respect to educational assistance allowances paid under chapter 30 of title 38, United States Code, for months after September 2001. However, no adjustment shall be made under section 3015(h) of title 38, United States Code, for fiscal years 2002, 2003, or 2004.

SEC. 102. AUTHORITY FOR ACCELERATED PAYMENTS OF BASIC EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER MONTGOMERY GI BILL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3014 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c)(1)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter and subject to subparagraph (B), an individual entitled to basic educational assistance under this subchapter may elect to receive an accelerated payment of the basic educational assistance allowance.

“(B) The Secretary may not make an accelerated payment under this subsection for a course to an individual who has received an advance payment under section 3014A or 3680(d) of this title for the same enrollment period.

“(2)(A) Pursuant to an election under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make an accelerated payment to an individual for a course in a lump-sum amount equal to the lesser of—

“(i) the amount of the educational assistance allowance for the month, or fraction thereof, in which the course begins plus the educational assistance allowance for each of the succeeding four months; or

“(ii)(I) in the case of a course offered on a quarter, semester, or term basis, the amount of aggregate monthly educational assistance allowance otherwise payable under this subchapter for the course for the entire quarter, semester, or term; or

“(II) in the case of a course that is not offered on a quarter, semester, or term basis, the amount of aggregate monthly educational assistance allowance otherwise payable under this subchapter for the entire course.

“(B) In the case of an adjustment under section 3015(h) of this title in the monthly rate of basic educational assistance that occurs during a period for which an accelerated payment is made under this subsection, the Secretary shall pay—

“(i) on an accelerated basis the amount of the allowance otherwise payable under this subchapter for the period without regard to the adjustment under that section; and

“(ii) on the date of the adjustment any additional amount of the allowance that is payable for the period as a result of the adjustment.

“(3) For each accelerated payment made to an individual under this subsection, the individual’s entitlement under this subchapter shall be charged at the same rate at which the entitlement would be charged if the individual had received a monthly educational assistance allowance for the period of educational pursuit covered by the accelerated payment.

“(4) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection. The regulations shall include the requirements, conditions, and methods for the request, issuance, delivery, certification of receipt and use, and recovery of overpayment of an accelerated payment under this subsection.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to courses of education beginning on or after that date.