

(11) the status of efforts to coordinate Federal programs with State and local government programs and leverage those programs.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—In addition to the amounts authorized by section 306 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892d), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this Act—

- (1) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2005;
- (2) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;
- (3) \$32,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;
- (4) \$38,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and
- (5) \$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.

(b) *JOINT OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING CENTERS.*—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a), the following amounts shall be used to carry out section 4(c) of this Act:

- (1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.
- (2) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.
- (3) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2007.
- (4) \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.
- (5) \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.

(c) *INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, from amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2005 through 2012 to the Department of Defense, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Homeland Security, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the head of each such department or agency may make available not more than \$10,000,000 per fiscal year to carry out interagency activities under section 3 of this Act.

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *ADMINISTRATOR.*—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) *COASTAL STATE.*—The term “coastal state” has the meaning given that term by section 304(4) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1453(4)).

(3) *COMMITTEE.*—The term “Committee” means the Interagency Ocean Mapping Committee established by section 3.

(4) *EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.*—The term “exclusive economic zone” means the exclusive economic zone of the United States established by Presidential Proclamation No. 5030, of March 10, 1983.

(5) *OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING.*—The term “ocean and coastal mapping” means the acquisition, processing, and management of physical, biological, geological, chemical, and archaeological characteristics and boundaries of ocean and coastal areas, resources, and sea beds through the use of acoustics, satellites, aerial photogrammetry, light and imaging, direct sampling, and other mapping technologies.

(6) *TERRITORIAL SEA.*—The term “territorial sea” means the belt of sea measured from the baseline of the United States determined in accordance with international law, as set forth in Presidential Proclamation Number 5928, dated December 27, 1988.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill 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. 2489), as amended, was passed.

RESEARCH REVIEW ACT OF 2004

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5213.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5213) to expand research information regarding multidisciplinary research projects and epidemiological studies.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 5213) was read the third time and passed.

NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION PROGRAM ACT

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 791, S. 2280.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2280) to establish and coordinate the national ocean exploration program with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 2280) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2280

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Ocean Exploration Program Act”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.

The Secretary of Commerce, through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall, in consultation with the National Science Foundation and other appropriate Federal agencies, establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of the program are the following:

(1) To explore the physical, biological, chemical, geological, archaeological, temporal, and other related characteristics of the oceans to benefit, inform, and inspire the American people.

(2) To create missions and scientific activities of discovery that will improve our understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the unique marine ecosystems, organisms, chemistry, and geology of the world's oceans, and to enhance knowledge of submerged maritime historical and archaeological sites.

(3) To facilitate discovery of marine natural products from these ecosystems that may have potential beneficial uses, including those that may help combat disease or provide therapeutic benefits.

(4) To communicate such discoveries and knowledge to policymakers, regulators, researchers, educators, and interested non-governmental entities in order to support policy decisions and to spur additional scientific research and development.

(5) To maximize effectiveness by integrating multiple scientific disciplines, employing the diverse resources of the ocean science community, and making ocean exploration data and information available in a timely and consistent manner.

(6) To achieve heightened education, environmental literacy, public understanding and appreciation of the oceans.

SEC. 4. AUTHORITIES.

In carrying out the program the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall—

(1) conduct interdisciplinary exploration voyages or other scientific activities in conjunction with other Federal agencies or academic or educational institutions, to survey little known areas of the marine environment, inventory, observe, and assess living and nonliving marine resources, and report such findings;

(2) give priority attention to deep ocean regions, with a focus on surveying deep water marine systems that hold potential for important scientific and medical discoveries, such as hydrothermal vent communities and seamounts;

(3) conduct scientific voyages to locate, define, and document historic shipwrecks, submerged sites, and other ocean exploration activities that combine archaeology and oceanographic sciences;

(4) develop, in consultation with the National Science Foundation, a transparent process for reviewing and approving proposals for activities to be conducted under this program;

(5) enhance the technical capability of the United States marine science community by promoting the development of improved oceanographic research, communication, navigation, and data collection systems, as well as underwater platforms and sensors;

(6) conduct public education and outreach activities that improve the public understanding of ocean science, resources, and processes, in conjunction with relevant educational programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, and other agencies;

(7) accept donations of property, data, and equipment to be applied for the purpose of exploring the oceans or increasing knowledge of the oceans; and

(8) establish an ocean exploration forum to encourage partnerships and promote communication among experts and other stakeholders in order to enhance the scientific and technical expertise and relevance of the national program.

SEC. 5. EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in coordination with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Naval Research, and relevant governmental, non-governmental, academic, and other experts, shall convene an ocean technology and infrastructure task force to develop and implement a strategy—

(1) to facilitate transfer of new exploration technology to the program;

(2) to improve availability of communications infrastructure, including satellite capabilities, to the program;

(3) to develop an integrated, workable and comprehensive data management information processing system that will make information on unique and significant features obtained by the program available for research and management purposes; and

(4) to encourage cost-sharing partnerships with governmental and non-governmental entities that will assist in transferring exploration technology and technical expertise to the program.

SEC. 6. INTERAGENCY FINANCING.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, and other Federal agencies involved in the program, are authorized to participate in interagency financing and share, transfer, receive and spend funds appropriated to any federal participant the program for the purposes of carrying out any administrative or programmatic project or activity under this section. Funds may be transferred among such departments and agencies through an appropriate instrument that specifies the goods, services, or space being acquired from another Federal participant and the costs of the same.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the program—

(1) \$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2010; and

(2) \$55,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2016.

EXTENDING LIABILITY INDEMNIFICATION REGIME FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent to proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5245.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5245) to extend the liability indemnification regime for the commercial space transportation industry.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 5245) was read for the third time and passed.

NORMAN Y. MINETA RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5163.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5163) to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide the Department of Transportation a more focused research organization with an emphasis on innovative technology, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, H.R. 5163, the Norman Mineta Research and Special Programs Improvement Act, will be considered by the Senate today. I support H.R. 5163 and look forward to its enactment into law.

H.R. 5163 will realign the current Research and Special Programs Administration, creating two new entities; the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and the Research and Innovative Technologies Administration. Each new entity will be led by an Administrator.

Section 2 of the bill provides a new Section 108 of Title 49, creating the new Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. In 108(c), the bill creates the Administrator position, as follows:

(c) ADMINISTRATOR.—The head of the Administration shall be the Administrator who shall be appointed by the President, by and with advice and consent of the Senate, and shall be an individual with professional experience in pipeline safety, hazardous materials safety, or other transportation safety

By spelling out qualifications for its new Administrator, Congress is seeking to enhance the prospects for success for the new Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

The new Research and Innovative Technologies Administration is created by amending Section 112 of title 49, eliminating reference to the Research and Special Programs Administration and modifying its powers and duties. Aside from adding the position to the Executive Schedule Pay Rate, H.R. 5163 does not address the new Administrator, Research and Innovative Technologies Administration.

As with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, success of the Research and Innovative Technologies Administration will rest to a significant degree on the effectiveness of its leadership. Its Administrator should be well qualified. He or she should be an individual with professional experience in transportation research, research management, research program development, education and training in transportation and transportation-related fields and in transferring technologies into real world applications.

I hope that the President will apply these qualifications when selecting a candidate for Administrator, Research and Innovative Technologies Administration.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 5163) was read the third time and passed.

AMENDING THE TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY ESTUARY AND BEACH SEWAGE CLEANUP ACT OF 2000

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4794, received from the House.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4794) to amend the Tijuana River Valley Estuary and Beach Sewage Cleanup Act of 2000 to extend the authorization of appropriations, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the matter be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action.

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

The bill (H.R. 4794) was read the third time and passed.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2986

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 2986 be placed directly on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2986

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to consideration of S. 2986, the debt limit extension bill; provided that there be 6 hours of debate only, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Finance Committee or their designees; provided further that no amendments be in order to the measure, and following the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate proceed to a vote on passage, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDING TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2618 and 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 (S. 2618) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend medicare cost-sharing for the medicare part B premium for qualifying individuals through September 2005.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be