

for fiscal year 2007, and \$25,500,000 for fiscal year 2008," after "2001," in the first sentence;

(3) by inserting ", and \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2008" after "2001" in paragraph (1);

(4) by inserting ", and \$6,500,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall be used for the research program described in section 603(f)(2)(B), for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2008" after "2001" in paragraph (2);

(5) by striking "2001" in paragraph (3) and inserting "2001, and \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2008";

(6) by striking "blooms;" in paragraph (3) and inserting "blooms and to carry out section 603(d);";

(7) by striking "and 2001" in paragraph (4) and inserting "2001, and \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2008";

(8) by striking "and" after the semicolon in paragraph (4);

(9) by striking "2001" in paragraph (5) and inserting "2001, \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, \$5,500,000 for fiscal year 2007, and \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2008";

(10) by striking "Administration." in paragraph (5) and inserting "Administration; and"; and

(11) by adding at the end the following:
 "(6) \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2008 to carry out section 603(e).";

TITLE II—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 201. AVAILABILITY OF NOAA REAL PROPERTY ON VIRGINIA KEY, FLORIDA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce may make available to the University of Miami real property under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Virginia Key, Florida, for development by the University of a Marine Life Science Center.

(b) MANNER OF AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary may make property available under this section by easement, lease, license, or long-term agreement with the University.

(c) AUTHORIZED USES BY UNIVERSITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Property made available under this section may be used by the University (subject to paragraph (2)) to develop and operate facilities for multidisciplinary environmental and fisheries research, assessment, management, and educational activities.

(2) AGREEMENT.—Property made available under this section may not be used by the University (including any affiliate of the University) except in accordance with an agreement with the Secretary that—

(A) specifies—

(i) the conditions for non-Federal use of the property; and

(ii) the retained Federal interests in the property, including interests in access to and egress from the property by Federal personnel and preservation of existing rights-of-way;

(B) establishes conditions for joint occupancy of buildings and other facilities on the property by the University and Federal agencies; and

(C) includes provisions that ensure—

(i) that there is no diminishment of existing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration programs and services at Virginia Key; and

(ii) the availability of the property for planning, development, and construction of future Federal buildings and facilities.

(3) TERMINATION OF AVAILABILITY.—The availability of property under this section shall terminate immediately upon use of the property by the University—

(A) for any purpose other than as described in paragraph (1); or

(B) in violation of the agreement under paragraph (2).

(d) USE OF FACILITIES BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary may—

(1) subject to the availability of funding, enter into an agreement to occupy facilities constructed by the University on property made available under this section; and

(2) participate with the University in collaborative research at, or administered through, such facilities.

(e) NO CONVEYANCE OF TITLE.—This section shall not be construed to convey or authorize conveyance of any interest of the United States in title to property made available under this section.

SEC. 202. CONVEYANCE OF NOAA VESSEL WHITING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall convey to the Government of Mexico, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration vessel WHITING—

(1) for use as a hydrographic survey platform in support of activities of the United States-Mexico Charting Advisors Committee; and

(2) to enhance coordination and cooperation between the United States and Mexico regarding hydrographic surveying and nautical charting activities in the border waters of both countries in the Gulf of Mexico and in the Pacific Ocean.

(b) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—The Government of the United States shall not be responsible or liable for any remediation, maintenance, or operation of a vessel conveyed under this section after the date of the delivery of the vessel to the Government of Mexico.

(c) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall seek to complete the conveyance by as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) DELIVERY OF VESSEL.—The Secretary shall deliver the vessel WHITING pursuant to this section at the vessel's homeport location of Norfolk, Virginia, at no additional cost to the United States.

TRAINING FOR REALTIME WRITERS ACT OF 2003

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 790, S. 480.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 480) to provide competitive grants for training court reporters and closed captioners to meet requirements of realtime writers under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statement relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 480) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 480

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 "Training for Realtime Writers Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) As directed by Congress in section 723 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 613), as added by section 305 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104; 110 Stat. 126), the Federal Communications Commission adopted rules requiring closed captioning of most television programming, which gradually require new video programming to be fully captioned beginning in 2006.

(2) More than 28,000,000 Americans, or 8 percent of the population, are considered deaf or hard of hearing, and many require captioning services to participate in mainstream activities.

(3) More than 24,000 children are born in the United States each year with some form of hearing loss.

(4) According to the Department of Health and Human Services and a study done by the National Council on Aging—

(A) 25 percent of Americans over 65 years old are hearing impaired;

(B) 33 percent of Americans over 70 years old are hearing impaired; and

(C) 41 percent of Americans over 75 years old are hearing impaired.

(5) The National Council on Aging study also found that depression in older adults may be directly related to hearing loss and disconnection with the spoken word.

(6) Empirical research demonstrates that captions improve the performance of individuals learning to read English and, according to numerous Federal agency statistics, could benefit—

(A) 3,700,000 remedial readers;

(B) 12,000,000 young children learning to read;

(C) 27,000,000 illiterate adults; and

(D) 30,000,000 people for whom English is a second language.

(7) Over the past 5 years, student enrollment in programs that train court reporters to become realtime writers has decreased significantly, causing such programs to close on many campuses.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT PROGRAM TO PROMOTE TRAINING AND JOB PLACEMENT OF REALTIME WRITERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Telecommunications and Information Administration shall make competitive grants to eligible entities under subsection (b) to promote training and placement of individuals, including individuals who have completed a court reporting training program, as realtime writers in order to meet the requirements for closed captioning of video programming set forth in section 723 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 613) and the rules prescribed thereunder.

(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of this Act, an eligible entity is a court reporting program that—

(1) can document and demonstrate to the Secretary of Commerce that it meets minimum standards of educational and financial accountability, with a curriculum capable of training realtime writers qualified to provide captioning services;

(2) is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Department of Education; and

(3) is participating in student aid programs under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

(c) PRIORITY IN GRANTS.—In determining whether to make grants under this section, the Secretary of Commerce shall give a priority to eligible entities that, as determined by the Secretary of Commerce—

(1) possess the most substantial capability to increase their capacity to train realtime writers;

(2) demonstrate the most promising collaboration with local educational institutions, businesses, labor organizations, or other community groups having the potential to train or provide job placement assistance to realtime writers; or

(3) propose the most promising and innovative approaches for initiating or expanding training and job placement assistance efforts with respect to realtime writers.

(d) **DURATION OF GRANT.**—A grant under this section shall be for a period of two years.

(e) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANT.**—The amount of a grant provided under subsection (a) to an entity eligible may not exceed \$1,500,000 for the two-year period of the grant under subsection (d).

SEC. 4. APPLICATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—To receive a grant under section 3, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration at such time and in such manner as the Administration may require. The application shall contain the information set forth under subsection (b).

(b) **INFORMATION.**—Information in the application of an eligible entity under subsection (a) for a grant under section 3 shall include the following:

(1) A description of the training and assistance to be funded using the grant amount, including how such training and assistance will increase the number of realtime writers.

(2) A description of performance measures to be utilized to evaluate the progress of individuals receiving such training and assistance in matters relating to enrollment, completion of training, and job placement and retention.

(3) A description of the manner in which the eligible entity will ensure that recipients of scholarships, if any, funded by the grant will be employed and retained as realtime writers.

(4) A description of the manner in which the eligible entity intends to continue providing the training and assistance to be funded by the grant after the end of the grant period, including any partnerships or arrangements established for that purpose.

(5) A description of how the eligible entity will work with local workforce investment boards to ensure that training and assistance to be funded with the grant will further local workforce goals, including the creation of educational opportunities for individuals who are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds or are displaced workers.

(6) Additional information, if any, of the eligibility of the eligible entity for priority in the making of grants under section 3(c).

(7) Such other information as the Administration may require.

SEC. 5. USE OF FUNDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—An eligible entity receiving a grant under section 3 shall use the grant amount for purposes relating to the recruitment, training and assistance, and job placement of individuals, including individuals who have completed a court reporting training program, as realtime writers, including—

(1) recruitment;

(2) subject to subsection (b), the provision of scholarships;

(3) distance learning;

(4) development of curriculum to more effectively train realtime writing skills, and education in the knowledge necessary for the delivery of high-quality closed captioning services;

(5) assistance in job placement for upcoming and recent graduates with all types of captioning employers;

(6) encouragement of individuals with disabilities to pursue a career in realtime writing; and

(7) the employment and payment of personnel for such purposes.

(b) **SCHOLARSHIPS.**—

(1) **AMOUNT.**—The amount of a scholarship under subsection (a)(2) shall be based on the amount of need of the recipient of the scholarship for financial assistance, as determined in accordance with part F of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087kk).

(2) **AGREEMENT.**—Each recipient of a scholarship under subsection (a)(2) shall enter into an agreement with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to provide realtime writing services for a period of time (as determined by the Administration) that is appropriate (as so determined) for the amount of the scholarship received.

(3) **COURSEWORK AND EMPLOYMENT.**—The Administration shall establish requirements for coursework and employment for recipients of scholarships under subsection (a)(2), including requirements for repayment of scholarship amounts in the event of failure to meet such requirements for coursework and employment. Requirements for repayment of scholarship amounts shall take into account the effect of economic conditions on the capacity of scholarship recipients to find work as realtime writers.

(c) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—The recipient of a grant under section 3 may not use more than 5 percent of the grant amount to pay administrative costs associated with activities funded by the grant.

(d) **SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**—Grants amounts under this Act shall supplement and not supplant other Federal or non-Federal funds of the grant recipient for purposes of promoting the training and placement of individuals as realtime writers.

SEC. 6. REPORTS.

(a) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Each eligible entity receiving a grant under section 3 shall submit to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, at the end of each year of the grant period, a report on the activities of such entity with respect to the use of grant amounts during such year.

(b) **REPORT INFORMATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each report of an entity for a year under subsection (a) shall include a description of the use of grant amounts by the entity during such year, including an assessment by the entity of the effectiveness of activities carried out using such funds in increasing the number of realtime writers. The assessment shall utilize the performance measures submitted by the entity in the application for the grant under section 4(b).

(2) **FINAL REPORT.**—The final report of an entity on a grant under subsection (a) shall include a description of the best practices identified by the entity as a result of the grant for increasing the number of individuals who are trained, employed, and retained in employment as realtime writers.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act, amounts as follows:

(1) \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004, 2005, and 2006.

(2) Such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, that concludes the unanimous consent requests at this time. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, briefly, I wish to thank the Senator from Idaho. The bill that was just passed is

a bill that provides grants for training court reporters for closed caption reporting. In 1996, the Congress passed a bill that said by 2006 all television shows have to be closed captioned. By 2010, all Spanish-speaking shows have to be closed captioned. That is going to take about 3,000 people trained to do this. We have less than 500 trained right now. We are not going to meet that date, but we have to move ahead and try our best to get these people trained in our community colleges all over the country. That is what this bill does.

I especially want to thank Senator MCCAIN, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, for his expeditious handling of this bill and letting it go through. I am assured the House is going to pass it unanimously, so we can get on with the business of training our reporters so that they can do realtime closed captioning.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, so our colleagues will know what our plans will be tonight and tomorrow—and I talked with the Democratic leader briefly earlier—the House will finish the omnibus tonight, midnight or 1 o'clock. Because I know many Senators have lots of other things to do, since we cannot say with definition when the House will complete the bill, I think it is best that we say there are no more rollcall votes tonight and that we will address the omnibus tomorrow.

In addition, we have IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which we need to vote on tomorrow as well. We will talk back and forth as to what time we will be coming in tomorrow morning.

We have had a very busy day. It has been a very constructive day, a great day in terms of tributes on both sides of the aisle. So we have had a good day.

We will, unfortunately, not be able to complete our business until tomorrow. There will be a lot of phone calls in terms of what time we will be voting. We cannot really say at this juncture—depending on how people view the omnibus coming over—whether or not a rollcall vote will be required on IDEA. My expectation is we will have one or two votes over the course of tomorrow. As soon as we get some sort of certainty in the schedules—it is a little bit out of our hands, depending on what action is taken in the House—we will be sure, through our respective conferences, to let everybody know tonight.

Before we leave tonight, we will set a time to come in tomorrow morning. I assume it is going to be around 9:30 or 10 o'clock. We will address that accordingly.

That is it in terms of information. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.