

in the United States, was chartered by the North Carolina General Assembly in Fayetteville, it being the first State university;

Whereas in 1793, the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry Company was organized in Cumberland County; it has the distinction of being the oldest military unit in the South in continuous existence;

Whereas in 1816, the Fayetteville Observer was founded as a weekly newspaper; it is now published daily and is North Carolina's oldest newspaper still in publication;

Whereas in 1825, the Marquis de Lafayette visited the city named for him and stayed in the McRae family home that once stood on the site of the Historic Courthouse on Gillespie Street in Fayetteville;

Whereas in 1831, the Great Fire destroyed the State House (the Market House) and many other buildings and caused more damage than the 1871 Chicago fire or the 1906 San Francisco earthquake;

Whereas in 1865, General William T. Sherman brought the Union Army to Cumberland County, destroying the Confederate arsenal and effectively bringing the county back into the Union;

Whereas in 1867, 7 visionary African-American citizens of Cumberland County paid about \$136 for 2 lots on Gillespie Street and formed the self-perpetuating Board of Trustees of the Howard School for the education of African-American youth; this school later became Fayetteville State University (FSU), which now offers 41 undergraduate programs, 22 graduate programs, and 1 doctoral program; FSU has 18 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) and 2 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) championships;

Whereas in 1914, Babe Ruth, the New York Yankee great, hit his first homerun as a professional at the old ballpark on Gillespie Street in Cumberland County, and in doing so, the 19-year-old "babe" so amazed the crowd, that George Herman Ruth was forever known by the nickname, "Babe", bestowed upon him while playing in Cumberland County;

Whereas in 1918, Camp Bragg was established from lands ceded from Cumberland County; it is now known as Fort Bragg, home of the 18th Airborne Corps, the 82d Airborne Division, and the United States Army Special Operations Command;

Whereas Fort Bragg was named for North Carolina native Lt. General Braxton Bragg; Fort Bragg soldiers and their families continue to be an integral part of the history and heritage of Cumberland County;

Whereas in 1919, Pope Army Airfield was established and remained part of the Army Air Corps until 1947 when the United States Air Force was established; it was home to the 43d Airlift Wing and the 18th Air Support Operations Group; Pope airmen and their families continue to be an integral part of the history and heritage of Cumberland County;

Whereas on November 1, 1956, Methodist College was chartered as a senior coeducational liberal arts college; it has grown to more than 2,100 students who hail from 48 States and 30 countries, graduated 8,145 students, and awarded associate's, bachelor's, or master's degrees in 57 majors and concentrations; Methodist College NCAA Division III athletic teams have earned 24 national championship titles;

Whereas in 1961, Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) was founded as the Fayetteville Area Industrial Education Center, with a faculty and staff of 9 people serving 50 students, and has since evolved into a comprehensive institution serving approximately 40,000 students annually, offering more than 121 programs;

Whereas Cumberland County's 6th courthouse, circa 1924, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is being established and dedicated, pursuant to the county's 250th anniversary, as a gallery of early prominent members of the local bar and elected county officials; and

Whereas Cumberland County and the municipalities of Falcon, Fayetteville, Godwin, Hope Mills, Linden, Spring Lake, Stedman, and Wade, along with civic groups, private businesses and military partners, are joining together to celebrate 250 years of history, culture, and diversity; the celebration will take place March 26-28, 2004: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the county of Cumberland, North Carolina, its municipalities, and other community partners for Cumberland County's 250th Anniversary Celebration.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED & PROPOSED

SA 2636. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DODD, and Mr. DURBIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

SA 2637. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. DODD, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. REED, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. DURBIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2636. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DODD, and Mr. DURBIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; as follows:

On page 11, after line 19, add the following:
TITLE II—GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE CLOSING ACT OF 2004

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Gun Show Loophole Closing Act of 2004".

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

Section 921(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(36) The term 'special firearms event'—

"(A) means any event at which 75 or more firearms are offered or exhibited for sale, exchange, or transfer, if 1 or more of the firearms has been shipped or transported in, or otherwise affects, interstate or foreign commerce;

"(B) does not include an offer or exhibit of firearms for sale, exchange, or transfer by an individual from the personal collection of that individual, at the private residence of that individual, if the individual is not required to be licensed under section 923 or 932; and

"(C) does not include an offer or exhibit of firearms for sale, exchange, or transfer at events conducted and attended by permanent or annual dues paying members, and their

immediate family, of private, not-for-profit organizations whose primary purpose is owning and maintaining real property for the purpose of hunting activities.

"(37) The term 'special firearms event licensee' means any person who has obtained and holds a valid license in compliance with section 932(d) and who is authorized to contact the national instant criminal background check system on behalf of another individual, who is not licensed under this chapter, for the purpose of conducting a background check for a potential firearms transfer at a special firearms event in accordance with section 932(c).

"(38) The term 'special firearms event vendor' means any person who is not required to be licensed under section 923 and who exhibits, sells, offers for sale, transfers, or exchanges 1 or more firearms at a special firearms event, regardless of whether or not the person arranges with the special firearms event promoter for a fixed location from which to exhibit, sell, offer for sale, transfer, or exchange 1 or more firearms."

SEC. 203. REGULATION OF FIREARMS TRANSFERS AT SPECIAL FIREARMS EVENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 932. Regulation of firearms transfers at special firearms events

"(a) SPECIAL FIREARMS EVENTS OPERATORS.—It shall be unlawful for a special firearms events operator to organize, plan, promote, or operate a special firearms event unless that operator—

"(1) before the commencement of the special firearms event, or in the case of a vendor who arrives after the commencement of the event, upon the arrival of the vendor, verifies the identity of each special firearms event vendor participating in the special firearms event by examining a valid identification document (as defined in section 1028(d)(2)) of the vendor containing a photograph of the vendor;

"(2) before the commencement of the special firearms event, or in the case of a vendor who arrives after the commencement of the event, upon the arrival of the vendor, requires each special firearms event vendor to sign—

"(A) a ledger with identifying information concerning the vendor; and

"(B) a notice advising the vendor of the obligations of the vendor under this chapter;

"(3) notifies each person who attends the special firearms event of the requirements of this chapter; and

"(4) maintains a copy of the records described in paragraphs (1) and (2) at the permanent place of business of the operator.

"(b) FEES.—The Attorney General shall not impose or collect any fee from special firearms event operators in connection with the requirements under this section.

"(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRANSFERORS OTHER THAN LICENSEES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—If any part of a firearm transaction takes place at a special firearms event, or on the curtilage of the event, it shall be unlawful for any person who is not licensed under this chapter to transfer a firearm to another person who is not licensed under this chapter, unless the firearm is transferred through a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, licensed dealer, or a special firearms event licensee in accordance with subsection (d).

"(2) CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS.—A person who is subject to the requirement under paragraph (1) shall not—

“(A) transfer the firearm to the transferee until the licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, licensed dealer, or a special firearms event licensee through which the transfer is made makes the notification described in subsection (d)(2)(A); or

“(B) transfer the firearm to the transferee if the person has been notified under subsection (d)(2)(B) that the transfer would violate section 922 or State law.

“(3) ABSENCE OF RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this section shall permit or authorize the Attorney General to impose recordkeeping requirements on any nonlicensed special firearms event vendor.

“(d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF LICENSEES.—A licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, licensed dealer, or special firearms event licensee who agrees to assist a person who is not licensed under this chapter in carrying out the responsibilities of that person under subsection (c) with respect to the transfer of a firearm shall—

“(1) except as provided in paragraph (2), comply with section 922(t) as if transferring the firearm from the inventory of the licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer to the designated transferee (although a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer complying with this subsection shall not be required to comply again with the requirements of section 922(t) in delivering the firearm to the nonlicensed transferee);

“(2) not later than 3 business days (meaning days on which State offices are open) after the date of the agreement to purchase, or if the event is held in a State that has been certified by the Attorney General under section 204 of the Gun Show Loophole Closing Act of 2004, not later than 24 hours after such date (or 3 business days after such date if additional information is required in order to verify disqualifying information from a State that has not been certified by the Attorney General), notify the nonlicensed transferee and the nonlicensed transferee—

“(A) of any response from the national criminal background check system, or if the licensee has had no response from the national criminal background check system within the applicable time period under this paragraph, notify the nonlicensed transferee that no response has been received and that the transfer may proceed; and

“(B) of any receipt by the licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer of a notification from the national instant criminal background check system that the transfer would violate section 922 or State law;

“(3) in the case of a transfer at 1 time or during any 5 consecutive business days, of 2 or more pistols or revolvers, or any combination of pistols and revolvers totaling 2 or more, to the same nonlicensed person, in addition to the recordkeeping requirements described in paragraph (4), prepare a report of the multiple transfers, which report shall be—

“(A) on a form specified by the Attorney General; and

“(B) not later than the close of business on the date on which the multiple transfer occurs, forwarded to—

“(i) the office specified on the form described in subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) the appropriate State law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction in which the transfer occurs; and

“(4) comply with all recordkeeping requirements under this chapter.

“(e) SPECIAL FIREARMS EVENT LICENSE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall issue a special firearms event license to a person who submits an application for a special firearms event license in accordance with this subsection.

“(2) APPLICATION.—The application required by paragraph (1) shall be approved if—

“(A) the applicant is 21 years of age or older;

“(B) the application includes a photograph and the fingerprints of the applicant;

“(C) the applicant (including, in the case of a corporation, partnership, or association, any individual possessing, directly or indirectly, the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the corporation, partnership, or association) is not prohibited from transporting, shipping, or receiving firearms or ammunition in interstate or foreign commerce under subsection (g) or (n) of section 922;

“(D) the applicant has not willfully violated any of the provisions of this chapter or regulations issued thereunder;

“(E) the applicant has not willfully failed to disclose any material information required, or has not made any false statement as to any material fact, in connection with the application; and

“(F) the applicant certifies that—

“(i) the applicant meets the requirements of subparagraphs (A) through (D) of section 923(d)(1);

“(ii) the business to be conducted under the license is not prohibited by State or local law in the place where the licensed premises is located; and

“(iii) the business will not be conducted under the license until the requirements of State and local law applicable to the business have been met.

“(3) APPLICATION AND APPROVAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon the approval of an application under this subsection and payment by the applicant of a fee of \$200 for 3 years, and upon renewal of a valid registration and payment of a fee of \$90 for 3 years, the Attorney General shall issue to the applicant an instant check registration, and advise the Attorney General of that registration.

“(B) NICS.—A special firearms event licensee may contact the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (18 U.S.C. 922 note) for information about any individual desiring to obtain a firearm at a special firearms event from any special firearms event vendor who has requested the assistance of the registrant in complying with subsection (c) with respect to the transfer of the firearm, during the 3-year period that begins on the date on which the registration is issued.

“(4) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements for a special firearms event licensee shall not exceed the requirements for a licensed dealer and the recordkeeping requirements shall be the same.

“(5) RESTRICTIONS.—

“(A) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—A special firearms event licensee may have access to the national instant criminal background check system to conduct a background check only at a special firearms event and only on behalf of another person.

“(B) TRANSFER OF FIREARMS.—A special firearms event licensee shall not transfer a firearm at a special firearms event.

“(f) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term ‘firearm transaction’—

“(1) includes the sale, offer for sale, transfer, or exchange of a firearm; and

“(2) does not include—

“(A) the mere exhibition of a firearm; or

“(B) the sale, transfer, or exchange of firearms between immediate family members, including parents, children, siblings, grandparents, and grandchildren.”

(b) PENALTIES.—Section 924(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8)(A) Whoever organizes, plans, promotes, or operates a special firearms event, knowing that the requirements under section 932(a)(1) have not been met—

“(i) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both; and

“(ii) in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

“(B) Whoever organizes, plans, promotes, or operates a special firearms event, knowing that the requirements under subsection (a)(2) or (c) of section 932 have not been met, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

“(C) Whoever organizes, plans, promotes, or operates a special firearms event, knowing that the requirements under section 932(a)(3) have not been met, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both.

“(D) In addition to any other penalties imposed under this paragraph, the Attorney General may, with respect to any person who violates any provision of section 932—

“(i) if the person is registered pursuant to section 932(a), after notice and opportunity for a hearing, suspend for not more than 6 months or revoke the registration of that person under section 932(a); and

“(ii) impose a civil fine in an amount equal to not more than \$10,000.”

(c) UNLAWFUL ACTS.—Section 922(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “or licensed collector” and inserting “licensed collector, or special firearms event licensee”.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended in the chapter analysis, by adding at the end the following:

“932. Regulation of firearms transfers at special firearms events.”

SEC. 204. STATE OPTION FOR 24-HOUR BACKGROUND CHECKS AT SPECIAL FIREARMS EVENTS FOR STATES WITH COMPUTERIZED DISQUALIFYING RECORDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, a State may apply to the Attorney General for certification of the 24-hour verification authority of that State.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—The Attorney General shall certify a State for 24-hour verification authority only upon a clear showing by the State, and certification by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, that—

(1) not less than 95 percent of all records containing information that would disqualify an individual under subsections (g) and (n) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code, or under State law, is available on computer records in the State, and is searchable under the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (18 U.S.C. 922 note);

(2) not less than 95 percent of all records containing information that would disqualify an individual under paragraphs (8) and (9) of subsection 922(g) of title 18, United States Code, or under State law, is available on computer records in the State, and is searchable under the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act (18 U.S.C. 922 note); and

(3) the chief judicial officer of the State requires the courts of the State to use the toll-free telephone number described in subsection (d)(1) to immediately notify the National Instant Criminal Background Check System each time a restraining order (as described in section 922(g)(8) of title 18, United States Code) is issued, lifted, or otherwise removed by order of the court.

(c) CLARIFICATIONS.—

(1) DISQUALIFYING INFORMATION.—Disqualifying information for each State under subsection (b) shall include the disqualifying records for that State generated during the 30 years preceding the date of application to the Attorney General for certification.

(2) TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER.—Upon a showing by the State that a court of the State has developed computer systems which permit the court to immediately electronically notify the National Instant Criminal Background Check System with respect to the issuance or lifting of restraining orders, the use of the toll-free telephone number described in subsection (d)(1) shall no longer be required under subsection (b)(3).

(d) NOTIFICATION INFRASTRUCTURE.—Before certifying any State under subsection (b), the Attorney General shall—

(1) create a toll-free telephone number through which State and local courts may immediately notify the National Instant Criminal Background Check System whenever a restraining order (as described in section 922(g)(8) of title 18, United States Code) is issued, lifted, or otherwise removed by order of the court; and

(2) encourage States to develop computer systems that permit courts to immediately electronically notify the National Instant Criminal Background Check System whenever a restraining order (as described in section 922(g)(8) of title 18, United States Code) has been issued, lifted, or otherwise removed by order of the court.

(e) 24-HOUR PROVISION.—Upon certification by the Attorney General, the 24-hour provision in section 932(c)(2) of title 18, United States Code, shall apply to the verification process (for transfers between unlicensed persons) in that State unless additional information is required in order to verify disqualifying information from a State that has not been certified by the Attorney General, in which case the 3 business day limit shall apply.

(f) ANNUAL REVIEW.—The Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics shall annually review the certifications under this section.

(g) REVOCATION.—The Attorney General shall revoke the certification required under this section for any State that is not in compliance with subsection (b).

SEC. 205. INSPECTION AUTHORITY.

Section 923(g)(1)(B), of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “or licensed dealer” and inserting “licensed dealer, or special firearms event operator”.

SEC. 206. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR SERIOUS RECORDKEEPING VIOLATIONS BY LICENSEES.

Section 924(a)(3) of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(3)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), any licensed dealer, licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, licensed collector, or special firearms event licensee who knowingly makes any false statement or representation with respect to the information required by this chapter to be kept in the records of a person licensed under this chapter, or violates section 922(m) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

“(B) If the violation described in subparagraph (A) is in relation to an offense—

“(i) under paragraph (1) or (3) of section 922(b), such person shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both; or

“(ii) under subsection (a)(6) or (d) of section 922, such person shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.”.

SEC. 207. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENTS.

Section 924(a) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 203(b), is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking “subsection (s) or (t) of section 922” and inserting “section 922(s)”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) Whoever knowingly violates section 922(t) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.”.

SEC. 208. RULE OF INTERPRETATION.

A provision of State law is not inconsistent with this title or an amendment made by this title if the provision imposes a regulation or prohibition of greater scope or a penalty of greater severity than any prohibition or penalty imposed by this title or an amendment made by this title.

SEC. 209. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This title and the amendments made by this title shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2637. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. DODD, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. REED, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. DURBIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; as follows:

On page 11, after line 19, add the following:

SEC. 5. ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Assault Weapons Ban Reauthorization Act of 2004”.

(b) 10-YEAR EXTENSION OF ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN.—Section 110105 of the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act (18 U.S.C. 921 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 110105. SUNSET PROVISION.

“This subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle are repealed September 13, 2014.”.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS**COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS**

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, March 3, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting on the Committees Views and Estimate Letter on the President's FY '05 Budget Request for Indian Programs, to be followed immediately by an oversight hearing on the Status of the Completion of the National Museum of The American Indian.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 9th, at 10 a.m. in Room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony regarding water supply issues in the arid West.

Because of the limited time available for the hearings, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150.

For further information please contact Shelly Randel at 202-224-7933 or Colin Hayes at 202-224-0883.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, March 10, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on the Proposed Reorganization of major agencies and functions related to Indian trust reform matters within the Department of the Interior.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 10, 2004, to examine the scope and operation of organizations registered under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code.

For further information concerning this meeting, please contact Susan Wells at 202-224-6352.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the following hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2004, at 2:30 p.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nomination of Sue Ellen Wooldridge, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

For further information, please contact Judy Pensabene of the Committee staff at (202) 224-1327.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, March 24, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on S. 1529, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act Amendments of 2003.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public