

(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

that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, March 25, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 1085, a bill to provide for a Bureau of Reclamation program to assist states and local communities in evaluating and developing rural and small community water supply systems, and for other purposes and S. 1732 a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a rural water supply program in the Reclamation States to provide a clean, safe, affordable, and reliable water supply to rural residents.

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 Subcommittee on Water and Power, 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, Erik Webb at 202-224-4756 or Colin Hayes at 202-224-0883.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 2, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on the Defense authorization request for Fiscal Year 2005 and the Future Years Defense Program.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at 10 a.m., to consider the President's Proposed FY 2005 Budget for the Forest Service.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at 9 a.m., to hold a hearing on foreign assistance oversight.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be author-

ized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at 3 p.m., to hold a hearing on North Korea.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on "Review of Current Investigations and Regulatory Actions Regarding the Mutual Fund Industry."

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, for a hearing on the final report of the Department of Veterans' Affairs Capital Asset Re-alignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission.

The hearing will take place in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building at 2:15 p.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 2, 2004, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed business meeting.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMPETITION, FOREIGN COMMERCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Competition, Foreign Commerce, and Infrastructure be authorized to meet on The Rise of Obesity in Children on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at 2:30 p.m. in SR-253.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 2, 2004, at 2:30 p.m. in open session to receive testimony on Active Component, Reserve Component and Civilian Personnel Programs, in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2005.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Subcommittee on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services be authorized to meet for a hearing on Suicide Prevention and Youth:

Saving Lives, during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at 10 a.m.

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

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 108-199, Section 104(c), 1(A), appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program: Dr. Stevan Trooboff of Portland, Maine.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2004

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 3. I further ask that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and the Senate then begin a period for morning business until 10:30 a.m., with the time equally divided in the usual form, provided that the time under Republican control be equally divided between Senators MURKOWSKI and COLLINS or their designees.

Mr. REID. No objection. We have already done the other paragraph.

Mr. KYL. All right. I thank the Senator.

Mr. REID. It is my understanding we already have an order to go to S. 1637 at 10:30 in the morning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is correct. Without objection, the unanimous consent request of the Senator from Arizona is agreed to.

PROGRAM

Mr. KYL. Tomorrow morning, following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 1637, the FSC/ETI bill. This legislation will have a direct impact on the creation of jobs and it is important that we move the bill forward. I make this statement on behalf of the majority leader and point out he and others have been working with our Democratic colleagues to lock in a list of amendments to the bill. Thus far, as the leader points out, we have not been able to limit the number of amendments, but we will continue to work toward that end. Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS will be here in the morning to start working through the amendments to the bill. The leader would encourage all Members who wish to offer an amendment to contact the bill managers as soon as possible.

The leader would also inform all Senators that votes are expected throughout the day tomorrow as we begin consideration of this important legislation, and Senators will be notified as votes are scheduled.