

calculating rent contributions for housing assisted by Section 8 vouchers.

Section 17. Study to identify obstacles to using vouchers in federally subsidized housing projects

Requires GAO to conduct a study on what legislative, regulatory and administrative requirements of federal housing programs (HOME, LIHTC), or practices and policies of PHAs or owners present obstacles to the use of vouchers in federally assisted housing.

Section 18. Collection of data on tenants in projects receiving tax credits

Requires state agencies administering Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to submit annual data to HUD on the characteristics of tenants in each Low-Income Housing Tax Credit project. Instructs state agencies, to the extent feasible, to collect data from owners through existing reporting processes and in a manner that minimizes burdens on property owners and directs HUD to establish standards and definitions for data collection, establish procedures to minimize duplicative reporting requirements for properties assisted under multiple housing programs (in coordination with other federal agencies administering housing programs), provide states with technical assistance establishing data systems, and compile and make publicly available data submitted by states. Authorizes appropriations in Fiscal Years 2009 through 2013 to cover costs to HUD related to data collection.

Section 19. Agency authority for utility payments in certain circumstances

In cases where an owner fails to make required utility payments, this section authorizes the PHA to use voucher subsidy payments normally due to the owner to pay for continued utility service. Requires a PHA to take reasonable steps to notify the owner before making direct utility payments instead of payments to the owner, except that no prior notification is required in cases where a utility cutoff rendering the unit uninhabitable has occurred or is threatened.

Section 20. Access to HUD programs for persons with limited English proficiency

To facilitate compliance with the Executive Order requiring program access to people with Limited English Proficiency, this section directs HUD to convene a task force to identify vital documents that need to be translated to improve access to HUD services and make available translations within six months after documents are identified by the task force. Requires HUD to develop and carry out a plan to establish a housing information resource center to provide translations of written materials, provide a toll-free 24 hour interpretation service, and conduct a study of best-practices.

Authorizes appropriations to enable HUD to carry out the requirements of this section, and directs HUD to submit a report regarding its compliance within six months after enactment.

Section 21. Authorization of appropriations

Authorizes appropriations for the amount necessary to provide incremental vouchers for 20,000 families in each year from fiscal year 2009 through 2013, and establishes preferences for receipt of such assistance to preserve affordable housing and for entities that provide voucher assistance on a regional basis.

Section 22. Effective date

Provides that provisions of the bill take effect on January 1, 2009, except for Sections 3, 4, and 13 (relating to rents, income and asset limitations and fair market rents, which will take effect at the start of fiscal year 2010). Requires that PHAs and owners provide current tenants with notification of the major

changes in the bill regarding rent policies and income and asset rules for continuing eligibility as soon as possible after enactment.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 468—DESIGNATING APRIL 2008 AS “NATIONAL 9-1-1 EDUCATION MONTH”

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. STEVENS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 468

Whereas 9-1-1 is nationally recognized as the number to call in an emergency to receive immediate help from police, fire, emergency medical services, or other appropriate emergency response entities;

Whereas, in 1967, the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice recommended that a “single number should be established” nationwide for reporting emergency situations, and other Federal Government agencies and various governmental officials also supported and encouraged the recommendation;

Whereas, in 1968, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) announced that it would establish the digits 9-1-1 as the emergency code throughout the United States;

Whereas 9-1-1 was designated by Congress as the national emergency call number under the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-81; 113 Stat. 1286);

Whereas section 102 of the ENHANCE 911 Act of 2004 (47 U.S.C. 942 note) declared an enhanced 9-1-1 system to be “a high national priority” and part of “our Nation's homeland security and public safety”;

Whereas it is important that policy makers at all levels of government understand the importance of 9-1-1, how the system works today, and the steps that are needed to modernize the 9-1-1 system;

Whereas the 9-1-1 system is the connection between the eyes and ears of the public and the emergency response system in the United States and is often the first place emergencies of all magnitudes are reported, making 9-1-1 a significant homeland security asset;

Whereas more than 6,000 9-1-1 public safety answering points serve more than 3,000 counties and parishes throughout the United States;

Whereas dispatchers at public safety answering points answer more than 200,000,000 9-1-1 calls each year in the United States;

Whereas a growing number of 9-1-1 calls are made using wireless and Internet Protocol-based communications services;

Whereas a growing segment of the population, including the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind, and individuals with speech disabilities, are increasingly communicating with nontraditional text, video, and instant messaging communications services and expect those services to be able to connect directly to 9-1-1;

Whereas the growth and variety of means of communication, including mobile and Internet Protocol-based systems, impose challenges for accessing 9-1-1 and implementing an enhanced 9-1-1 system and require increased education and awareness about the capabilities of different means of communication;

Whereas numerous other N-1-1 and 800 number services exist for nonemergency situations, including 2-1-1, 3-1-1, 5-1-1, 7-1-1, 8-1-

1, poison control centers, and mental health hotlines, and the public needs to be educated on when to use those services in addition to or instead of 9-1-1;

Whereas international visitors and immigrants make up an increasing percentage of the United States population each year, and visitors and immigrants may have limited knowledge of our emergency calling system;

Whereas people of all ages use 9-1-1 and it is critical to educate those people on the proper use of 9-1-1;

Whereas senior citizens are at high risk for needing to access to 9-1-1 and many senior citizens are learning to use new technology;

Whereas thousands of 9-1-1 calls are made every year by children properly trained in the use of 9-1-1, which saves lives and underscores the critical importance of training children early in life about 9-1-1;

Whereas the 9-1-1 system is often misused, including by the placement of prank and nonemergency calls;

Whereas misuse of the 9-1-1 system results in costly and inefficient use of 9-1-1 and emergency response resources and needs to be reduced;

Whereas parents, teachers, and all other caregivers need to play an active role in 9-1-1 education for children, but will do so only after being first educated themselves;

Whereas there are many avenues for 9-1-1 public education, including safety fairs, school presentations, libraries, churches, businesses, public safety answering point tours or open houses, civic organizations, and senior citizen centers;

Whereas children, parents, teachers, and the National Parent Teacher Association contribute importantly to the education of children about the importance of 9-1-1 through targeted outreach efforts to public and private school systems;

Whereas we as a Nation should strive to host at least 1 educational event regarding the proper use of 9-1-1 in every school in the country every year; and

Whereas programs to promote proper use of 9-1-1 during National 9-1-1 Education Month could include—

(1) public awareness events, including conferences and media outreach, training activities for parents, teachers, school administrators, other caregivers and businesses;

(2) educational events in schools and other appropriate venues; and

(3) production and distribution of information about the 9-1-1 system designed to educate people of all ages on the importance and proper use of 9-1-1; and

Whereas the people of the United States deserve the best education regarding the use of 9-1-1: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2008 as “National 9-1-1 Education Month”; and

(2) urges Government officials, parents, teachers, school administrators, caregivers, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies, training events, and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4087. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2663, to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission to provide greater protection for children's products, to improve the screening of noncompliant consumer products, to improve the effectiveness of consumer product recall programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4088. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her

to the bill S. 2663, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4089. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2663, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4090. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2663, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4087. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2663, to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission to provide greater protection for children's products, to improve the screening of noncompliant consumer products, to improve the effectiveness of consumer product recall programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 5, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

(C) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN PRIVATE SPONSORED TRAVEL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Federal agency and any employee of that agency may not accept payment for travel or travel-related expenses from a non-Federal entity if the non-Federal entity has been subject to the jurisdiction of that agency in the 2-year period preceding such travel.

(2) DEFINITION OF SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THAT AGENCY.—In this subsection, "subject to the jurisdiction of that agency" means, with respect to a non-Federal entity and a Federal agency, that the non-Federal entity has been subject to an order, investigation, or regulation of the Federal agency.

SA 4088. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2663, to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission to provide greater protection for children's products, to improve the screening of noncompliant consumer products, to improve the effectiveness of consumer product recall programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 69, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

(3) LEAD CRYSTAL.—The Commission may by rule provide that subsection (a) does not apply to lead crystal if the Commission determines, after notice and a hearing, that the lead content in lead crystal will neither—

(A) result in the absorption of lead into the human body; nor

(B) have an adverse impact on public health and safety.

SA 4089. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2663, to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission to provide greater protection for children's products, to improve the screening of noncompliant consumer products, to improve the effectiveness of consumer product recall programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, insert the following new title:

TITLE —OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC PRODUCT SAFETY

SEC. 01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "International and Domestic Product Safety Act".

SEC. 02. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COMMISSIONER.—The term "Commissioner" means the Commissioner responsible for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) CONSUMER PRODUCT.—The term "consumer product" means any of the following:

(A) Food, as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321), including—

(i) poultry and poultry products, as defined in section 4 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 453);

(ii) meat and meat food products, as defined in section 1 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601); and

(iii) eggs and egg products, as defined in the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1033).

(B) A drug, device, cosmetic, dietary supplement, infant formula, and food additive, as such terms are defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(C) A consumer product, as such term is defined in section 3(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2052).

(D) A motor vehicle, motor vehicle equipment, and replacement equipment, as such terms are defined in the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act (49 U.S.C. 30102).

(E) A biological product, as such term is defined in section 351(i) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(i)).

(F) A pesticide, as such term is defined by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136).

(G) Any other food, consumer product, fishery product, beverage, or tobacco product with respect to which a department or agency that is represented on the Council has jurisdiction.

(3) COUNCIL.—The term "Council" means the Product Safety Coordinating Council established under section 04.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the Office of International and Domestic Product Safety established under section 03.

(5) OFFICE.—The term "Office" means the Office of International and Domestic Product Safety established under section 03.

SEC. 03. OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC PRODUCT SAFETY; DIRECTOR.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—There is established in the Department of Commerce an Office of International and Domestic Product Safety.

(b) DIRECTOR.—The Office shall be headed by a Director of International and Domestic Product Safety who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and who shall report to the Secretary of Commerce.

(c) DUTIES.—The Director shall be responsible for facilitating the oversight and coordination of international and domestic consumer product safety responsibilities in a manner that protects the health and safety of United States consumers and ensures that consumers and businesses have access to vital consumer product safety information. The Director shall—

(1) establish policies, objectives, and priorities to improve the management, coordination, promotion, and oversight of all departments and agencies that are responsible for international and domestic consumer product safety;

(2) work with consumer groups, industry, and other interested parties to establish the

policies, objectives, and priorities described in paragraph (1);

(3) create a "one-stop" Federal website for consumer product safety information;

(4) develop and maintain a centralized user-friendly public database of all consumer product recalls, advisories, alerts, seizures, defect determinations, import bans, and other actions related to products sold (or offered for sale) in the United States, including mandatory and voluntary actions taken by Federal and State departments and agencies, or by businesses;

(5) implement a system for disseminating consumer product recall alerts to consumers and businesses, including retailers, the media, and medical professionals;

(6) promote the development of risk assessment models to assist Federal departments and agencies responsible for the importation and safety of consumer products to better identify and prevent the importation or introduction into commerce of unsafe products;

(7) promote the development of food tracing technology to provide consumers with access to the supply chain history of a consumer product;

(8) develop guidelines to facilitate information sharing relating to the importation and safety of consumer products among Federal departments and agencies, State and local governments, businesses, and United States trading partners;

(9) develop and maintain a public electronic directory of services to assist consumers and businesses in locating consumer product safety information;

(10) develop a framework for engaging United States trading partners in efforts to improve consumer product safety, including cooperation and coordination related to safety standards, testing, certification, audits, and inspections before consumer products are shipped to the United States;

(11) establish an inventory of Memoranda of Understanding negotiated by Federal departments and agencies with foreign governments related to the importation and safety of consumer products, and promote coordination among Federal departments and agencies seeking to negotiate new memoranda; and

(12) develop and implement other activities to ensure that there is a unified effort to protect the health and safety of United States consumers, including—

(A) simplifying consumer-retailer interaction regarding consumer products identified as unsafe;

(B) improving consumer product labeling;

(C) developing comprehensive record-keeping throughout the production, importation, and distribution of consumer products; and

(D) increasing public access to information regarding—

(i) consumer product safety standards, testing, and certification;

(ii) enforcement of consumer product safety laws; and

(iii) consumer product-related deaths, injuries, and illness.

(d) COMPENSATION.—Section 5314 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"Director of International and Domestic Product Safety, Department of Commerce."

(e) FUNCTION OF THE OFFICE.—The function of the Office of International and Domestic Product Safety is to assist the Director in carrying out the duties of the Director described under this title.

(f) STAFF.—The Director may employ and fix the compensation of such officers and employees as may be necessary to assist the Director in carrying out the duties of the Director. The Director may direct, with the