

SA 4712. Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5493, to provide that the usual day for paying salaries in or under the House of Representatives may be established by regulations of the Committee on House Administration; as follows:

At the end of the bill, insert the following:
SEC. ____ TECHNICAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO SENATE PAY PERIODS.

(a) TITLE 18.—Section 207(e)(7) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “at least 60 days” and inserting “more than 2 months”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “at least 60 days” and inserting “more than 2 months”.

(b) SENATE RULES.—Paragraph 9(c) of rule XXXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking “more than 60 days in a calendar year” and inserting “more than 2 months, in the aggregate, during the 1-year period before that former officer’s or employee’s service as such officer or employee was terminated”.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this oversight hearing is to receive testimony on development of oil shale resources.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to

Gina.Weinstock@energy.Senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Patty Beneke at 202-224-5451 or Gina Weinstock at 202-224-5684.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold a business meeting on Wednesday, May 7, at 9:45 a.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to consider pending bills on its shortlist of Agenda items.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224-5039.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on

Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to hold a hearing entitled, “Perchlorate and TCE in Water.”

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Seizing the New Opportunity for Health Reform”.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on Holocaust era insurance restitution.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 6, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on the nomination of Michael E. Leiter to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT AND THE COURTS

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled “Policing Lenders and Protecting Homeowners: Is Misconduct in Bankruptcy Fueling the Foreclosure Crisis?” on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 2 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ryan Davis, an intern with the Republican Conference, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the month.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kim Allen, a staffer for the Republican Conference, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that David Greenwald, of my Finance Committee staff, be granted the privileges of the floor during the month of May.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Maria Honeycutt, a Congressional Science Fellow in the office of Senator BILL NELSON, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the Senate’s consideration of S. 2284, the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act.

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

PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT OF SALARIES IN OR UNDER THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5493 and the Senate now proceed to its consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5493) to provide that the usual day for paying salaries in or under the House of Representatives may be established by regulations of the Committee on House Administration.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the amendment that I am offering on behalf of myself and Senator MCCONNELL addresses technical issues with respect to the “cooling-off period” for senior staff members.

Under title 18 and the Senate rules, staff members whose salary is above a certain threshold are prohibited from lobbying the Senate for a period of 1 year. One of the reforms in S. 1, the ethics reform bill we enacted last year, was to broaden the scope of the ban—senior staff members who were previously prohibited from lobbying individual Senate offices for a year are now prohibited from lobbying the entire Senate.

However, we have been made aware of an unintended consequence of the law: some junior staff members who receive salary bonuses over a period of 2 months are inadvertently covered by the lobbying ban, which is now even more sweeping. The Reid-McConnell amendment addresses this problem by providing that a staff member whose

salary is above the threshold for only 2 months will not be covered by the ban, even if those 2 months—for example, July and August—have an aggregate of more than 60 days.

Our amendment also makes the criminal law and Senate Rule XXXVII consistent. Both the law and the rule will now look back over the same time period, i.e., 1 year before an employee's termination, and the threshold will be the same, i.e., more than 2 months. Post-employment restrictions will thus be clearer to staff and the public, as well as easier to administer.

Under 2 U.S.C. 60c-1, Members, officers, and employees of the Senate are paid on a semimonthly basis: generally, the 20th of every month for the period of the 1st through the 15th and the 5th of the succeeding month for the period of the 16th through the end of the month. Thus, the language "two months" is intended and shall mean in the Senate equal to four pay periods. If an employee were to be paid above the threshold amount for more than four pay periods, for example, for four and any part of a fifth pay period, he or she would be covered by the restrictions of both the law and the rule.

Mr. President, the amendment is at the desk, and I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 4712) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To propose a technical amendment relating to Senate pay periods)

At the end of the bill, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . TECHNICAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO SENATE PAY PERIODS.

(a) TITLE 18.—Section 207(e)(7) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "at least 60 days" and inserting "more than 2 months"; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking "at least 60 days" and inserting "more than 2 months".

(b) SENATE RULES.—Paragraph 9(c) of rule XXXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking "more than 60 days in a calendar year" and inserting "more than 2 months, in the aggregate, during the 1-year period before that former officer's or employee's service as such officer or employee was terminated".

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 5493), as amended, was passed.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 552.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 552) recognizing the 150th anniversary of the State of Minnesota.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 552) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 552

Whereas Minnesota was established as a territory on March 2, 1849, and became the 32nd State on May 11, 1858;

Whereas Minnesota is also known as the "Gopher State", the "North Star State", and the "Land of 10,000 Lakes";

Whereas Minnesota's name comes from the Dakota word "minnesota", meaning "water that reflects the sky", and Native Americans continue to play a defining role in Minnesota's proud heritage;

Whereas the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul were established after the completion of nearby Fort Snelling, a frontier outpost and training center for Civil War soldiers;

Whereas more than 338,000,000 tons of Minnesota iron ore were shipped between 1940 and 1945 that contributed to the United States military victory in World War II, and an additional 648,000,000 tons of iron ore were shipped between 1945 and 1955 that boosted post-war economic expansion in the United States;

Whereas, in 1889, the Saint Mary's Hospital, now known as the Mayo Clinic, opened its doors to patients in Rochester, Minnesota, and is now known worldwide for its cutting-edge care;

Whereas Minnesota continues to be a leader in innovation and is currently home to more than 35 Fortune 500 companies;

Whereas Minnesota houses over 30 institutions of higher education, including the University of Minnesota, a world-class research university where the first open heart surgery and first bone marrow transplant were performed in the United States;

Whereas farmland spans over half of Minnesota's 54,000,000 acres and the agriculture industry is Minnesota's 2nd largest job market, employing nearly 80,000 farmers;

Whereas Minnesota is the Nation's number one producer of sugarbeets and turkeys;

Whereas Minnesota is a national leader in the production and use of renewable energy, which helps our Nation reduce its dependency on foreign sources of oil;

Whereas the Mall of America located in Bloomington, Minnesota, is the Nation's largest retail and entertainment complex, spanning 9,500,000 square feet and providing more than 11,000 jobs;

Whereas Minnesota has 90,000 miles of lake and river shoreline, which includes the coast of Lake Superior, the largest of North America's Great Lakes;

Whereas the Minneapolis-St. Paul area is nationally recognized for its parks, museums, and cultural events; and

Whereas the people of Minnesota have a timeless reputation of compassion, strength, and determination: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the State of Minnesota on its 150th anniversary and the contributions it continues to make to America's economy and heritage.

CONGRATULATING CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed now to S. Res. 553.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 553) congratulating Charles County, Maryland, on the occasion of its 350th anniversary.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, that there be no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 553) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 553

Whereas 2008 marks the 350th anniversary of the establishment of Charles County, Maryland, a historic and memorable event that will be commemorated throughout the year;

Whereas Charles County was chartered in 1658 and named after Charles Calvert, a royal proprietor of the colony of Maryland;

Whereas citizens of Charles County have played an important role in the history of Maryland and our Nation, including Thomas Stone, whose home is maintained by the National Park Service in Port Tobacco and who served as a Continental Congressman, a framer of the Articles of Confederation, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence;

Whereas, under the Articles of Confederation, John Hanson, born in Port Tobacco, served as the President of the United States in Congress Assembled;

Whereas Josiah Henson escaped slavery and fled from Charles County to Canada, where he wrote his autobiography, a narrative that later inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin";

Whereas Josiah Henson's grandnephew, Matthew Henson, left Charles County farmland to become an arctic explorer, venturing to the North Pole and going on to receive international acclaim;

Whereas, following the Civil War, the house of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd in Waldorf was where John Wilkes Booth stopped to have Dr. Mudd reset his leg, broken after he fatally shot President Abraham Lincoln and jumped off the balcony of Ford's Theater in Washington, DC;

Whereas today Charles County has roughly 120,000 residents;

Whereas, while farming and small town life still flourish, particularly along the banks of the Potomac River, the population of the county is growing; and

Whereas the county is home to workers in the National Capital region as well as the