

“(5) LIMIT ON NUMBER OF GRANTS.—In no case shall a State educational agency receive more than 1 grant under this subsection.

“(1) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Standards to Provide Educational Achievement for Kids Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall report to Congress regarding the status of all grants awarded under this section.

“(m) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to establish a preferred national curriculum or preferred teaching methodology for elementary school or secondary school instruction.

“(n) TIMELINE EXTENSION.—The Secretary may extend the 12-year requirement under section 1111(b)(2)(F) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(F)) by not less than 2 years and by not more than 4 years for a State served by a State educational agency that receives grants under subsections (c) and (k).”.

**SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

Section 307(a) of the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (as redesignated by section 5(1)) (20 U.S.C. 9624(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated—

“(1) to carry out section 302, \$8,750,000 for fiscal year 2010 and such sums as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year;

“(2) to carry out section 303, \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and such sums as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year;

“(3) to carry out section 304, \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and such sums as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year; and

“(4) to carry out section 305, \$400,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and such sums as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.”.

**SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**

**SENATE RESOLUTION 181—DESIGNATING JUNE 10, 2009, AS “NATIONAL PIPELINE SAFETY DAY”**

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 181

Whereas there are more than 2,000,000 miles of gas and hazardous liquid pipelines in the United States that are operated by more than 3,000 companies;

Whereas gas and hazardous liquid pipelines play a vital role in the lives of people in the United States by delivering the energy needed to heat homes, drive cars, cook food and operate businesses;

Whereas, during the last decade, significant new pipelines have been built to help move North American sources of oil and gas to refineries and markets;

Whereas, on June 10, 1999, a hazardous liquid pipeline ruptured and exploded in a park in Bellingham, Washington, killing 2 10-year-old boys and a young man, destroying a salmon stream, and causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damage and economic disruption;

Whereas, in response to the pipeline tragedy on June 10, 1999, Congress enacted significant new pipeline safety regulations, including in the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-355; 116 Stat. 2985) and the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-468; 120 Stat. 3486);

Whereas, during the last decade, the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Admin-

istration of the Department of Transportation, with support from a diverse group of stakeholders, has instituted a variety of important new rules and pipeline safety initiatives, such as the Common Ground Alliance, pipeline emergency training with the National Association of State Fire Marshals, and the Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance;

Whereas, even with pipeline safety improvements, in 2008 there were 274 significant pipeline incidents that caused more than \$395,000,000 of damage to property and disrupted the economy;

Whereas, even though pipelines are the safest method to transport huge quantities of fuel, pipeline incidents are still occurring, including the pipeline explosion in Edison, New Jersey, in 1994 that left 100 people homeless, the butane pipeline explosion in Texas in 1996 that left 2 teenagers dead, the pipeline explosion near Carlsbad, New Mexico, in 2000 that killed 12 people in an extended family, the pipeline explosion in Walnut Creek, California, in 2004 that killed 5 workers, and the propane pipeline explosion in Mississippi in 2007 that killed a teenager and her grandmother;

Whereas the millions of miles of pipelines are still “out of sight”, and therefore “out of mind” for the majority of people, local governments, and businesses in the United States, a situation that can lead to pipeline damage and a general lack of oversight of pipelines;

Whereas greater awareness of pipelines and pipeline safety can improve public safety;

Whereas a “National Pipeline Safety Day” can provide a focal point for creating greater pipeline safety awareness; and

Whereas June 10, 2009, is the 10th anniversary of the Bellingham, Washington, pipeline tragedy that was the impetus for many of the safety improvements described in this resolution and is an appropriate day to designate as “National Pipeline Safety Day”:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 10, 2009, as “National Pipeline Safety Day”;

(2) encourages State and local governments to observe the day with appropriate activities that promote pipeline safety;

(3) encourages all pipeline safety stakeholders to use the day to create greater public awareness of all the advancements that can lead to greater pipeline safety; and

(4) encourages individuals throughout the United States to become more aware of the pipelines that run through communities in the United States and to encourage safe practices and damage prevention relating to gas and hazardous liquid pipelines.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 182—RECOGNIZING THE DEMOCRATIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PEOPLE OF ALBANIA AND EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ON JUNE 28, 2009, MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE TRANSPARENCY AND FAIRNESS OF DEMOCRACY IN ALBANIA**

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. DEMINT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 182

Whereas the people of Albania have made extraordinary progress from authoritarian government and a closed market to a demo-

cratic government and market economy in less than two decades;

Whereas the Republic of Albania, with the advice and consent of this Senate and the governments of the other member countries, was officially admitted to full membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on April 2, 2009;

Whereas the Thessaloniki Declaration of 2003 confirmed that the countries of the Western Balkans are eligible for accession to the European Union once they have fulfilled the requirements for membership; and

Whereas the Government of Albania has accepted numerous specific commitments governing the conduct of elections as a participating State in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE):

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Government of Albania to fulfill the commitments it has made to the OSCE with respect to the conduct of its upcoming elections, and to ensure that those elections are free and fair;

(2) urges the Government of Albania to expedite the implementation of its voter identification card program to minimize the possibility of disenfranchisement and provide as many cards as possible to eligible voters prior to the election;

(3) commends the positive step taken by the Government of Albania to reduce the cost of the voter ID card significantly and avoid charges of a poll tax; and

(4) expresses its hope that credible democratic elections in Albania will contribute to a strong and stable government responsive to the wishes of the people of Albania and strengthen Albania’s standing within NATO and European institutions.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

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 a the business meeting of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources that convened on Tuesday, June 9, 2009, will resume on Thursday, June 11, 2009, at 2 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the business meeting is to consider pending energy legislation.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Amanda Kelly at (202) 224-6836.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 11 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BEGICH. 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 June 10, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. BEGICH. 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 Wednesday, June 10, 2009.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 9:45 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on June 10, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Continued Importance of the Violence Against Women Act."

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.,

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 3 p.m.,

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009.

The Committee will meet in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building beginning at 9:30 a.m.

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

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, "Allegations of Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in Security Contracts at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION OPERATIONS, SAFETY, AND SECURITY

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 70, S. 407.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 407) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2009, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 407

*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 "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2009".]

**SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.**

[(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2009, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2009, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

[(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

[(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

[(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

[(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

[(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

[(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

[(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

[(1) PERCENTAGE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2009, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

[(2) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

[(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

[(e) PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in subsection (b), as increased under subsection (a), not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2010.]

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2009".*

**SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.**

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(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

(1) PERCENTAGE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit