

S. 2579

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2579, a bill to provide additional support to ensure safe drinking water.

S. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 4, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 368

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 368, a resolution supporting efforts by the Government of Colombia to pursue peace and the end of the country's enduring internal armed conflict and recognizing United States support for Colombia at the 15th anniversary of Plan Colombia.

S. RES. 372

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 372, a resolution celebrating Black History Month.

S. RES. 373

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 373, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Executive Order 9066 and expressing the sense of the Senate that policies that discriminate against any individual based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion of that individual would be a repetition of the mistakes of Executive Order 9066 and contrary to the values of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 3308

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3308 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 2580. A bill to establish the Indian Education Agency to streamline the administration of Indian education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about legislation that will streamline and modernize the Bureau of Indian Education.

The Bureau of Indian Education school system includes 183 elementary and secondary schools, and it serves roughly 48,000 students. Part of the school system falls under a cumbersome bureaucracy burdened with

needless red tape. This has led to staffing and administrative issues at these schools, as well as problems with neglect at the facilities themselves. A lack of defined leadership at the Bureau of Indian Education has led to schools falling through the cracks. In the past 36 years, there have been 33 Bureau of Indian Education directors. Stability and clear structure are needed.

Last May, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, which I chair, held an oversight hearing on this topic. We heard testimony from Government Accountability Office officials that more accountability is needed at the Bureau of Indian Education to help students succeed.

That is why I am introducing the Reforming American Indian Standards of Education—or RAISE—Act. The RAISE Act separates the functions of the Bureau of Indian Education from the Bureau of Indian Affairs into an independent agency under the Department of the Interior. This agency would be led by a president-appointed and Senate-confirmed director and two assistant directors. Together, this leadership team will oversee the administration of Indian Education, curriculum for the schools and school-facilities management.

The RAISE Act will create better accountability for all. By having a leadership team that tribes can directly address for their school's needs, Indian students attending these schools will have a greater voice. The current Indian school system is managed in such a fragmented and complicated manner that it has failed students for many years. These students are our future, and they deserve our best efforts to address their educational needs.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2580

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 "Reforming American Indian Standards of Education Act of 2016" or the "RAISE Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term "Agency" means the Indian Education Agency established by section 3(a).

(2) ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.—The term "Assistant Director" means, as applicable—

(A) the Assistant Director of Education Curriculum described in section 3(c)(1); or

(B) the Assistant Director of Facilities Management described in section 3(c)(2).

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of the Interior.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of Indian Education described in section 3(b)(1).

(5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "Indian tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(6) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Department an independent agency to be known as the "Indian Education Agency".

(b) DIRECTOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of the Agency shall be the Director of Indian Education.

(2) APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall be—

(A) appointed for a term of 6 years; and

(B) eligible for reappointment for an unlimited number of terms.

(4) REMOVAL.—The Director may be removed by the President before the expiration of the term of the Director only for cause.

(5) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the position of Director shall not affect the functions or authorities of the Agency, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(c) ASSISTANT DIRECTORS.—

(1) ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION CURRICULUM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Agency an Assistant Director of Education Curriculum, who shall be appointed by the Director.

(B) DUTIES.—The Assistant Director shall be responsible for the functions of the Agency—

(i) relating to education curriculum; and

(ii) that the Director may delegate to the Assistant Director.

(2) ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Agency an Assistant Director of Facilities Management, who shall be appointed by the Director.

(B) DUTIES.—The Assistant Director shall be responsible for the functions of the Agency—

(i) relating to facilities management; and

(ii) that the Director may delegate to the Assistant Director.

SEC. 4. TERMINATION OF BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION; TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.

(a) TERMINATION OF BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION.—Effective beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Indian Education (including any predecessor office described in Federal law) is terminated.

(b) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any function or authority relating to Indian education that, as of the day before the date of enactment of this Act, was performed or carried out by the Secretary or any bureau, office, or other unit of the Department is transferred to the Director.

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any other Federal law to the Secretary, the Department, or any bureau, office, or other unit of the Department with respect to the functions or authorities transferred under paragraph (1) is deemed to refer to the Director or the Agency, as appropriate.

SEC. 5. REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director, in consultation with affected Indian tribes, shall prepare a report describing the implementation of this Act, including—

(1) the activities of the Agency;

(2) an assessment of the effectiveness of this Act; and

(3) recommendations for legislation to improve the functioning of the Agency.

(b) SUBMISSION.—The Director shall submit each report described in subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(3) the Committee on Education and Workforce of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 6. REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall promulgate such regulations as the Director determines are appropriate to perform the functions of the Director.

(b) AUTONOMY.—No regulation promulgated pursuant to subsection (a) shall be subject to approval or review by the Secretary.

SEC. 7. PERSONNEL.

(a) COMPENSATION OF DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS.—

(1) DIRECTOR.—The Director shall be compensated at a rate equal to that of level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) ASSISTANT DIRECTORS.—Each Assistant Director shall be compensated at a rate equal to that of level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The Director and each Assistant Director shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of their duties.

(b) STAFF.—

(1) TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL.—Effective beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the personnel employed in connection with the functions or authorities transferred under section 4(b)(1) are transferred to the Director.

(2) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—The Director may, without regard to the civil service laws, appoint and terminate such additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Director to perform the functions of the Director.

(3) COMPENSATION.—The Director may fix the compensation of the personnel of the Agency other than the Director or the Assistant Directors without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

(c) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Agency without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(d) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Director may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

(e) PREFERENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the selection of each individual to be employed by the Director pursuant to section 3(c) and subsections (b)(2), (c), and (d) of this section, the Director shall give preference to members of Indian tribes.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The preference described in paragraph (1) shall apply only to initial hiring, and shall not apply to promotion, lateral transfer, reassignment, reductions in force, or any other employment practice.

(f) CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.—All personnel of the Agency other than the Director shall be covered by the civil service laws.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 375—RAISING AWARENESS OF MODERN SLAVERY

Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 375

Whereas it is estimated that tens of millions of children, women, and men around the world are subjected to conditions of modern slavery;

Whereas the International Labour Organization estimates that modern slavery generates more than \$150,000,000,000 in criminal profits each year;

Whereas despite being outlawed in every nation, modern slavery exists around the world, including in the United States;

Whereas around the world, 55 percent of forced labor victims are women or girls, and nearly 1 in 5 victims of slavery is a child; and

Whereas each year, individuals around the world join together to call for an end to modern slavery by symbolically drawing a red “X” symbol on their hands to share the message of the END IT movement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends each individual that supports the END IT movement on February 25, 2016;

(2) notes the dedication of individuals, organizations, and governments to end modern slavery; and

(3) calls for concerted, international action to bring an end to modern slavery around the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 376—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2016 AS “NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REID, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 376

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer, such as mesothelioma and asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases and there is no cure for asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients in-

creased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas the United States has substantially reduced the consumption of asbestos in the United States, yet the United States continues to consume about 400 metric tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products throughout the United States;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas while exposure to asbestos continues, safety and prevention of asbestos exposure—

(1) has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases; and

(2) can further reduce the incidence of asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas before 1975, asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities, including schools;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a “National Asbestos Awareness Week” will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2016 as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”;

(2) urges the Surgeon General of the United States to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 32—RECOGNIZING THE SOLDIERS OF THE 14TH QUARTERMASTER DETACHMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE, WHO WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED IN THEIR BARRACKS BY AN IRAQI SCUD MISSILE ATTACK IN DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA, DURING OPERATION DESERT SHIELD AND OPERATION DESERT STORM, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK

Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 32

Whereas 217,000 members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces served alongside 470,000 members of the regular components of the Armed Forces during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm;

Whereas the Army Reserve in Pennsylvania played crucial roles in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm;

Whereas 69 soldiers of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment of the United States