

report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 831) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the deduction for the health insurance costs of self-employed individuals, to repeal the provision pertaining nonrecognition of gain on sales and exchanges effectuating policies of the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-671. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act and the Egg Products Inspection Act to recover the full costs for Federal inspection of meat, poultry and egg products performed at times other than an approved primary shift; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

EC-672. A communication from the Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the number of applications for conditional registration under FIFRA; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

EC-673. A communication from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the breach of a cost threshold; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-674. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to technology-related developments useful in the reduction of environmental hazards; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-675. A communication from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1995 Force Readiness Assessment; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-676. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Policy Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the effectiveness of defense conversion; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-677. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to consumer waivers of the right of rescissions under the Truth in Lending Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

EC-678. A communication from the Comptroller of the Currency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to enforcement actions taken during calendar year 1994 under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

EC-679. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to provide for the certification by the Federal Aviation Administration of airports serving commuter air carriers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

EC-680. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the spectrum reallocation final report; to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

EC-681. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to provide for the sale of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and the transfer of oil from Weeks Island, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-682. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of intent to submit a report required under the Energy Policy Act of 1992; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-683. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to enforcement actions and the comprehensive status of Exxon and stripper well oil overcharge funds; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-684. A communication from the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation Act of 1972 to authorize appropriations for implementation of the development plan for Pennsylvania Avenue between the Capitol and the White House, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-685. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1993 annual report on low-level radioactive waste management; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-686. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to enable Federal agencies to enter into energy savings performance contracts for cogeneration technologies that provide cost savings on future Government steam and electricity bills, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-687. A communication from the Deputy Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a space situation report for Cambria County, PA; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-688. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Public Building Service Capital Investment and Leasing Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-689. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on Medicare hospital outpatient prospective payment; to the Committee on Finance.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-56. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

“SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 241

“Whereas, the use of credit cards is a convenient and increasingly popular method of paying for goods and services; and

“Whereas, the Virginia General Assembly has enacted legislation authorizing the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Taxation, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Supreme Court, and

other state agencies to accept payment by credit cards for various taxes, fees, fines, and purchases; and

“Whereas, the Virginia General Assembly has also authorized counties, cities, and towns in the Commonwealth to accept payment by credit cards for local taxes and utility charges; and

“Whereas, agencies of the Commonwealth and local governments are also authorized to add to any payment made by credit card a service charge for the acceptance of such card in the amount charged to the agency or political subdivision as a result of the use of the credit card; and

“Whereas, credit card companies generally assess merchants a discount fee, which typically is equal to two percent of the transaction amount, on credit card transactions; and

“Whereas, credit card issuers have become increasingly insistent that state agencies and local governments bear the discount fees incurred in connection with credit card transactions; and

“Whereas, several political subdivisions of the Commonwealth, including the Counties of Arlington, Chesterfield, Loudoun and Pulaski and the City of Alexandria, and the Department of Motor Vehicles have been denied the ability to accept credit cards because of their insistence that the user of a credit card pay a service charge in the amount of the discount fee associated with the transaction; and

“Whereas, banks that allow agencies of the Commonwealth and local governments to deviate from the general prohibition on charging the card users the costs of using the credit card may be assessed penalties or have their credit card contracts terminated; and

“Whereas, it is unreasonable to apply to government entities the general policy prohibiting merchants from assessing card users with the discount fee because governments cannot absorb the impact of the discount fee by increasing the amounts charged to taxpayers and other customers; and

“Whereas, on May 19, 1993, Representative James P. Moran of Virginia's Eighth Congressional District sponsored, and Representative Frederick C. Boucher of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District co-sponsored, H.R. 2175, which would amend Chapter 2 of the Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. §1631, et seq., to prohibit issuers of credit cards from limiting the ability of governmental agencies to charge fees for honoring credit cards; and

“Whereas, H.R. 2175 was not reported out of the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs during the 103rd Congress; and

“Whereas, the enactment of a federal law to prevent credit card issuers from prohibiting state agencies and local governments from charging fees for honoring credit cards will avoid the necessity that these entities either absorb the discount fees or refuse to honor credit cards; now, therefore, be it

“Resolved by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That Congress be urged to amend the Truth in Lending Act to prohibit issuers of credit cards from limiting the ability of state agencies and local governments to charge fees for honoring credit cards; and, be it

“Resolved further, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Virginia Delegation to the United States Congress so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly on this matter.”

POM-57. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Westlake, Ohio relative to