

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to waive in the case of multiemployer plans the section 415 limit on benefits to the participant's average compensation for his high 3 years.

S. 1981

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the name of the Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1981, a bill to preserve the balance of rights between employers, employees, and labor organizations which is fundamental to our system of collective bargaining while preserving the rights of workers to organize, or otherwise engage in concerted activities protected under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 2078

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 2078, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for Farm and Ranch Risk Management Accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 2157

At the request of Mr. CLELAND, the names of the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE], the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG], the Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM], the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO], the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAUX], the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. DODD], the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN], the Senator from Wisconsin [Mr. KOHL], the Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU], the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. TORRICELLI], the Senator from Vermont [Mr. LEAHY], the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY], the Senator from Maine [Ms. SNOWE], the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN], the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BUMPERS], the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN], and the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] were added as cosponsors of S. 2157, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to increase the authorized funding level for women's business centers.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 50

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL], the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES], the Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU], the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE], the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN], and the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SESSIONS] were added as cosponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 50, a joint resolution to disapprove the rule submitted by the Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services on June 1, 1998, relating to surety bond requirements for home health agencies under the medicare and medicaid programs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 249—CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO BULLS ON WINNING THE 1998 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN (for herself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 249

Whereas the Chicago Bulls, despite injuries to Scottie Pippen and Luc Longley, went 62-20 and tied for the best regular season record in the National Basketball Association;

Whereas the Bulls battled through the playoffs, sweeping the New Jersey Nets and defeating the Charlotte Hornets in 5 games, before beating the Indiana Pacers in 7 games to return to the NBA Finals for the third straight year;

Whereas the Bulls displayed stifling defense throughout the playoffs before beating the Utah Jazz to repeat the 3-peat and win their third consecutive NBA championship, their sixth in the last 8 years;

Whereas head coach Phil Jackson and the entire coaching staff skillfully led the Bulls through an injury riddled 62-win season and a 15-6 playoff run;

Whereas Michael Jordan won his fifth most valuable player award, and he, along with Scottie Pippen, were again named to the NBA's "All-Defensive First Team";

Whereas Michael Jordan won his record tenth scoring title and was named the NBA Finals most valuable player for the sixth time in 6 appearances in the finals;

Whereas Scottie Pippen again exhibited his outstanding offensive and defensive versatility, proving himself to be one of the best all-around players in the NBA;

Whereas the quickness, tireless defensive effort, and athleticism of the colorful Dennis Rodman, who won his seventh straight rebounding title, keyed a strong Bulls front line;

Whereas Toni Kukoc displayed his awesome variety of offensive skills in both assisting on, and hitting, several big shots when the Bulls needed them most;

Whereas veteran guard Ron Harper, in shutting down many of the league's top point guards throughout the playoffs, demonstrated the defensive skills that have made him a cornerstone of the league's best defense;

Whereas center Luc Longley frustrated many of the all-star caliber centers that he faced while at times providing a much needed scoring lift;

Whereas Steve Kerr buried several 3-pointers when the Bulls needed them most;

Whereas the outstanding play of Jud Buechler, Scott Burrell, and Bill Wennington and the tenacious defense of Randy Brown, each of whom came off the bench to provide valuable contributions, were an important part of each Bulls victory; and

Whereas the contributions of Dickey Simpkins and rookies Rusty LaRue and Keith Booth, both on the court and in practice, again demonstrated the total devotion of Bulls personnel to the team concept that has made the Bulls one of the great sports dynasties of modern times: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the Chicago Bulls on winning the 1998 National Basketball Association championship.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

HUTCHINSON AMENDMENT NO. 2706

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. HUTCHINSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 2057) to authorize appropriations for the fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; as follows:

Add at the end the following new title:

TITLE —RADIO FREE ASIA

SEC. . SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Radio Free Asia Act of 1998".

SEC. . FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Government of the People's Republic of China systematically controls the flow of information to the Chinese people.

(2) The Government of the People's Republic of China demonstrated that maintaining its monopoly on political power is a higher priority than economic development by announcing in January 1996 that its official news agency Xinhua, will supervise wire services selling economic information, including Dow Jones-Telerate, Bloomberg, and Reuters Business, and in announcing in February of 1996 the "Interim Internet Management Rules", which have the effect of censoring computer networks.

(3) Under the May 30, 1997, order of Premier Li Peng, all organizations that engage in business activities related to international computer networking must now apply for a license, increasing still further government control over access to the Internet.

(4) Both Radio Free Asia and the Voice of America, as a surrogate for a free press in the People's Republic of China, provide an invaluable source of uncensored information to the Chinese people, including objective and authoritative news of in-country and regional events, as well as accurate news about the United States and its policies.

(5) Radio Free Asia currently broadcasts only 5 hours a day in the Mandarin dialect and 2 hours a day in Tibetan.

(6) Voice of America currently broadcasts only 10 hours a day in Mandarin and 3 1/2 hours a day in Tibetan.

(7) Radio Free Asia and Voice of America should develop 24-hour-a-day service in Mandarin, Cantonese, and Tibetan, as well as further broadcasting capability in the dialects spoken in the People's Republic of China.

(8) Radio Free Asia and Voice of America, in working toward continuously broadcasting to the People's Republic of China in multiple languages, have the capability to immediately establish 24-hour-a-day Mandarin broadcasting to that nation by staggering the hours of Radio Free Asia and Voice of America.

(9) Simultaneous broadcasting on Voice of America radio and Worldnet television 7 days a week in Mandarin are also important and needed capabilities.

SEC. . AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR RADIO FREE ASIA AND VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTING TO CHINA.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR RADIO FREE ASIA.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for "Radio Free Asia" \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 1998 and \$22,000,000 for fiscal year 1999.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) Of the funds under paragraph (1) authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1998, \$8,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for one-time capital costs.

(B) Of the funds under paragraph (1), \$700,000 is authorized to be appropriated for each such fiscal year for additional personnel to staff Cantonese language broadcasting.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING TO CHINA AND NORTH KOREA.—In addition to such sums as are otherwise authorized to be appropriated for "International Broadcasting Activities" for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, there are authorized to be appropriated for "International Broadcasting Activities" \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1998 and \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 1999, which shall be available only for enhanced Voice of America broadcasting to China and North Korea.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR RADIO CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to such sums as are otherwise authorized to be appropriated for "Radio Construction" for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, there are authorized to be appropriated for "Radio Construction" \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1998 and \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 1999, which shall be available only for construction in support of enhanced broadcasting to China.

(2) LIMITATION.—Of the funds under paragraph (1) authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1998, \$3,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated to facilitate the timely augmentation of transmitters at Tinian, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(d) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for "International Broadcasting Activities", the Director of the United States Information Agency and the Board of Broadcasting Governors shall seek to ensure that the amounts made available for broadcasting to nations whose people do not fully enjoy freedom of expression do not decline in proportion to the amounts made available for broadcasting to other nations.

(e) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR NORTH KOREA.—Of the funds under subsection (b), \$2,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year for additional personnel and broadcasting targeted at North Korea.

SEC. . REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, in consultation with the Board of Broadcasting Governors, the President shall prepare and transmit to Congress a report on a plan to achieve continuous broadcasting of Radio Free Asia and Voice of America to the People's Republic of China in multiple major dialects and languages.

SEC. . UTILIZATION OF UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICES FOR PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING FUGITIVES FROM UNITED STATES JUSTICE.

United States international broadcasting services, particularly the Voice of America, shall produce and broadcast public service announcements, by radio, television, and Internet, regarding fugitives from the criminal justice system of the United States, including cases of international child abduction.

NATIONAL TOBACCO POLICY AND YOUTH SMOKING REDUCTION ACT

FORD (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 2707

Mr. FORD (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. ROBB) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 2437 proposed by Mr. DURBIN to the bill (S. 1415) to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, insert the following:

SEC. . INAPPLICABILITY OF TITLE XV.

The provisions of Title XV shall have no force and effect.

SEC. . ASSISTANCE FOR PRODUCERS EXPERIENCING LOSSES OF FARM INCOME.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, from amounts made available under section 451(d), the Secretary of Agriculture shall use up to \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2004 to establish a program to indemnify eligible producers that have experienced, or are experiencing, catastrophic losses in farm income during any of the 1997 through 2004 crop years, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) GROSS INCOME AND PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, use gross income and payment limitations established for the Disaster Reserve Assistance Program under section 813 of the Agricultural Act of 1970 (7 U.S.C. 1427a).

(c) EFFECT ON OTHER PAYMENTS.—None of the payments made under this section shall limit or alter in any manner the payments authorized under section 1021 of this Act.

ASSISTIVE AND UNIVERSALLY DESIGNED TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT ACT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

BOND AMENDMENT NO. 2708

(Ordered referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.)

Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 2173) to amend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to provide for research and development of assistance technology and universally designed technology, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of the bill add the following:

SEC. 8. TAX INCENTIVES FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.

(a) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS TAX CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to business related credits) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 45D. CREDIT FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.

"(a) GENERAL RULE.—For purposes of section 38, the assistive technology credit of any taxpayer for any taxable year is an amount equal to so much of the qualified assistive technology expenses paid or incurred by the taxpayer during such year as does not exceed \$100,000.

"(b) QUALIFIED ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY EXPENSES.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified assistive technology expenses' means expenses for the design, development, and fabrication of assistive technology devices.

"(2) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICE.—The term 'assistive technology device' means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, including any item acquired commercially off the shelf and modified or customized by the taxpayer, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

"(3) INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—The term 'individuals with disabilities' has the meaning given the term by section 3 of the Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988 (29 U.S.C. 2202).

"(c) NO DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Any amount taken into account under section 41 may not be taken into account under this section.

"(d) TERMINATION.—This section shall not apply to any amount paid or incurred after December 31, 2003."

(2) CREDIT TREATED AS BUSINESS CREDIT.—Section 38(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to current year business credit) is amended by striking "plus" at the end of paragraph (11), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (12) and inserting " plus", and by adding at the end the following:

"(13) the assistive technology credit determined under section 45D(a)."

(3) TRANSITIONAL RULE.—Section 39(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to transitional rules) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(9) NO CARRYBACK OF SECTION 45D CREDIT BEFORE EFFECTIVE DATE.—No portion of the unused business credit for any taxable year which is attributable to the assistive technology credit determined under section 45D(a) may be carried back to a taxable year ending before January 1, 1999."

(4) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Sec. 45D. Credit for assistive technology."

(5) EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF CREDIT.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall evaluate the effectiveness of the assistive technology credit under section 45D of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by this subsection, and report to the Congress the results of such evaluation not later than January 1, 2003.

(b) EXPANSION OF ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIER REMOVAL DEDUCTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 190 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) by inserting "and qualified communications barrier removal expenses" after "removal expenses" in subsections (a)(1),

(B) by adding at the end of subsection (b) the following:

"(4) QUALIFIED COMMUNICATIONS BARRIER REMOVAL EXPENSES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified communications barrier removal expense' means a communications barrier removal expense with respect to which the taxpayer establishes, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, that the resulting removal of any such barrier meets the standards promulgated by the Secretary and set forth in regulations prescribed by the Secretary. Such term shall not include the costs of general communications system upgrades or periodic replacements that do not heighten accessibility as the primary purpose and result of such replacements.