

(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.