

(6) activities that provide children with the support they need to develop skills and confidence, and find the inner strength—the will and fire of the human spirit—to make their dreams come true.

WAIVING CERTAIN ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to House Joint Resolution 131 received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 131) waiving certain enrollment requirements for the remainder of the One Hundred Fifth Congress with respect to any bill or joint resolution making general or continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1999.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the joint resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 131) was considered read the third time and passed.

AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION BY SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 297 submitted earlier by Senators LOTT and DASCHLE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 297) to authorize testimony and representation of former and current Senate employees and representation of Senator CRAIG in *Student Loan Fund of Idaho, Inc. v. Riley, et al.*

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this resolution concerns a request for testimony in a civil action set for trial in the U.S. District Court for District of Idaho. This case arises out of a dispute between the plaintiff, a private corporation, and the Department of Education concerning the status of certain student loan guaranty reserve funds. Counsel for the plaintiff wishes to question a former member of Senator CRAIG's staff about her recollection of meetings with representatives from the Department of Education during a time period in which she served as a legislative aid to the Senator.

This resolution would authorize testimony by the former staff member,

and any other former or current employees of the Senate, except where a privilege should be asserted, with representation by the Senate Legal Counsel. The resolution would also authorize the Senate Legal Counsel to represent Senator CRAIG and his employees in connection with this matter in order to protect the Senator's privileges.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 297) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 297

Whereas, in the case of *Student Loan Fund of Idaho, Inc. v. Riley, et al.*, Case No. CV 94-0413-S-LMB, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Idaho, testimony has been requested from Elizabeth Criner, a former employee of Senator Larry Craig;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent Senators and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistently with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Elizabeth Criner, and any other former or current Senate employee from whom testimony may be required, are authorized to testify in the case of *Student Loan Fund of Idaho, Inc. v. Riley, et al.*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Senator Larry Craig, Elizabeth Criner, and any other Member or employee of the Senate in connection with the testimony authorized in section one of this resolution.

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4337 received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

A bill (H.R. 4337) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial as-

sistance to the State of Maryland for a pilot program to develop measures to eradicate or control nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, this legislation authorizes the Secretary of Interior to provide assistance to the State of Maryland in controlling a non-native rodent—nutria—which is destroying wetlands and valuable habitat at and around Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Sponsored by my colleague Representative GILCHREST, the legislation establishes a three year demonstration program of methods of manage nutria populations and to restore marshlands damaged by the destructive creature.

Mr. President, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is one of the real treasures and showplaces of our National Wildlife Refuge system. Established in the early 1930s to help preserve migratory waterfowl, the 20,000 acre refuge has become one of the chief wintering areas for Canada geese along the Atlantic Flyway. It is also home for the endangered Delmarva Fox Squirrel and more than 200 species of birds. As all who visit the refuge quickly discover, Blackwater is a very special place: a haven for fish and wildlife, a land of exceptional beauty, and a vital part of the natural heritage and quality of life that we enjoy in Maryland.

Unfortunately the Refuge and surrounding wetlands are being threatened by the prolific and highly invasive nonindigenous species nutria which are destroying the tidal marshes and even displacing other native species. Over the past three decades, the population of nutria in Maryland has grown exponentially from about 150 to as many as 150,000—a thousand fold increase. During that same period, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge has lost more than 40 percent of its marshes—approximately 7,000 of 17,000 acres—due, in large part, to nutria. As nutria population densities continue to increase, so does the range of the creature and its associated ecological damage.

In order to respond to this threat, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the University of Maryland and more than a dozen other partners have joined together to develop a plan to address marsh loss and control of nutria. The goal of this three year pilot program is to develop methods for intensive control of the nutria populations and to restore damaged marsh habitats. This legislation authorizes the Federal funds necessary to carry out the program. I urge adoption of the legislation.

Mr. COATS. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third

time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 4337) was considered read the third time and passed.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CALIFORNIA INDIAN POLICY EXTENSION ACT OF 1998

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 595, H.R. 3069.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3069) to extend the Advisory Council on California Indian Policy to allow the Advisory Council to advise Congress on the implementation of the proposals and recommendations of the Advisory Council.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment; as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be inserted is shown in *italics*.)

H.R. 3069

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 "Advisory Council on California Indian Policy Extension Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. FINDING AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that the Advisory Council on California Indian Policy, pursuant to the Advisory Council on California Indian Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-416; 25 U.S.C. 651 note), submitted its proposals and recommendations regarding remedial measures to address the special status of California's terminated and unacknowledged Indian tribes and the needs of California Indians relating to economic self-sufficiency, health, and education.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to allow the Advisory Council on California Indian Policy to advise Congress on the implementation of such proposals and recommendations.

SEC. 3. DUTIES OF ADVISORY COUNCIL REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5 of the Advisory Council on California Indian Policy Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 2133) is amended by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (7) and inserting "; and", and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(8) work with Congress, the Secretary, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the California Indian tribes, to implement the Council's proposals and recommendations contained in the report submitted under paragraph (6), including—

"(A) consulting with Federal departments and agencies to identify those recommendations that can be implemented immediately, or in the very near future, and those which will require long-term changes in law, regulations, or policy;

"(B) working with Federal departments and agencies to expedite to the greatest extent possible the implementation of the Council's recommendations;

"(C) presenting draft legislation to Congress for implementation of the recommendations requiring legislative changes;

"(D) initiating discussions with the State of California and its agencies to identify specific areas where State actions or tribal-State cooperation can complement actions by the Federal Government to implement specific recommendations;

"(E) providing timely information to and consulting with California Indian tribes on discussions between the Council and Federal and State agencies regarding implementation of the recommendations; and

"(F) providing annual progress reports to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives on the status of the implementation of the recommendations."

(b) TERMINATION.—The first sentence of section 8 of the Advisory Council on California Indian Policy Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 2136) is amended to read as follows: "The Council shall cease to exist on March 31, 2000."

SEC. 4. HEALTH OR SOCIAL SERVICES FACILITY.

Section 1004(a) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-324; 110 Stat. 3956) is amended by striking "use other than for a facility for the provision of health programs funded by the Indian Health Service (not including any such programs operated by Ketchikan Indian Corporation prior to 1993)" and inserting "use as a health or social services facility".

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment not be agreed to.

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

The committee amendment was rejected.

Mr. COATS. I ask unanimous consent the bill be considered read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3069), as amended, was considered read the third time and passed.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY ACT

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1274, and further, that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1274) to authorize appropriations for the National Institute of Standards and Technology for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 3810

(Purpose: To amend the Technology Administration Act of 1998)

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, Senator FRIST has a substitute amendment at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS], for Mr. FRIST and Mr. ROCKEFELLER, proposes an amendment numbered 3810.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 3810) was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 1274), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

WORKFORCE IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3736, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make changes relating to H-1B nonimmigrants.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HARKIN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I regret that this objection is being made. The bill is vital to the technology industry, and this objection makes it impossible to pass the bill this year.

Mr. HARKIN. Will the Senator yield for about 3 minutes?

Mr. COATS. I am happy to yield to the Senator.

Mr. HARKIN. I appreciate the Senator from Indiana yielding to me to explain why I object to this.

Before I get into that, let me say that I was here for part of his speech. He thanked his staff. I thought it was a very gracious and wonderful thing the Senator did. It was really nice.

I must say, I will miss you here in the Senate, DAN. As I said before, you have been a wonderful person to work with. I hate to end it on this note, where I am objecting to something that you are bringing up. You have been a great Senator. You have been a great human being to work with. We will miss you. I will miss you, personally. All of my friends who have left said there is a life beyond the Senate. Quite frankly, it is probably a lot better, considering we are here at 7:30 on a Friday night.

Mr. President, I just want to explain why I object to this bill. This is the bill