

If a call originates at a cell site located in a jurisdiction, it may impose a tax. If a call originates at a switch in the jurisdiction, a tax may be imposed. If the billing address is in the jurisdiction, a tax can be imposed.

As a result, many different taxing authorities can tax the same wireless call. The farther you travel during a call, the greater the number of taxes that can be imposed upon it.

This system is simply not sustainable as wireless calls represent an increasingly portion of the total number of calls made throughout the United States. To reduce the cost of making wireless calls, Senator DORGAN and I introduced S. 1755, the Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act. The bill we pass today that we received from the House is substantively identical to our bill. While the current bill amends title 4 rather than title 47 and represents the drafting style of the House rather than the Senate, the legislation uses our language to accomplish our mutual goal.

The legislation would create a nationwide, uniform system for the taxation of wireless calls. The only jurisdictions that would have the authority to tax mobile calls would be the taxing authorities of the customer's place of primary use, which would essentially be the customer's home or office.

By creating this uniform system, Congress would be greatly simplifying the taxation and billing of wireless calls. The wireless industry would not have to keep track of multiple taxing laws for each wireless transaction. State and local taxing authorities would be relieved of burdensome audit and oversight responsibilities without losing the authority to tax wireless calls. And, most importantly, consumers would see reduced wireless rates and fewer billing headaches.

The Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act is a win-win-win. It's a win for industry, a win for government, and a win for consumers. I thank Senator DORGAN for working with me in crafting our bill. And I would like to commend the House for sending the Senate the bill before us. And, most of all, I thank the groups outside of Congress for coming together and reaching agreement on this important issue.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator DORGAN and I be permitted to enter into a colloquy.

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

Mr. DORGAN. I wanted to ask the Senator from Kansas about the bill currently before the Senate, H.R. 4391, the Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act, which passed the House unanimously on Tuesday. Is this bill similar to S. 1755, the Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act, legislation that the Senator and I introduced last year that is currently on the Senate calendar?

Mr. BROWBACK. The Senator from North Dakota is correct. H.R. 4391 is substantively identical to S. 1755, which the Senator and I introduced last year, which is co-sponsored by every member of the Senate Commerce Committee, which was reported unanimously by the Senate Commerce Committee to the Senate, and for which the Senate Commerce Committee filed Senate Report No. 106-326.

Mr. DORGAN. How does H.R. 4391 differ from S. 1755?

Mr. BROWBACK. H.R. 4391 amends title 4 of the U.S. Code, whereas S. 1755 amends title 47. H.R. 4391 reflects the drafting style of the House, whereas S. 1755 reflects the drafting style of the Senate. H.R. 4391 deleted the findings incorporated in section 2 of S. 1755. H.R. 4391 also changed the order in which the definitions appear in S. 1755. There are no substantive differences between S. 1755 and H.R. 4391. Therefore, H.R. 4391 and S. 1755 are substantively identical.

Mr. DORGAN. I thank the Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 4391) was read the third time and passed.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 17, 2000

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 12 noon on Monday, July 17. I further ask consent that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business, with Members permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator BYRD, from 12 noon to 2 p.m.; Senator THOMAS or his designee, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Mr. REID. No objection.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. ROTH. Following morning business, the Senate will resume the Interior appropriations bill under the previous consent, with several amendments to be offered and debated throughout the day. However, any votes ordered with respect to the Interior bill will occur at 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, July 18. As a reminder, there will

be votes on the reconciliation bill on Monday at 6:15 p.m. This will include votes on amendments as well as on final passage of this important tax legislation.

MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2000— Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could alert the Senator from Delaware, we just received a phone call that perhaps—we do not know yet—Senator KENNEDY may want to second degree an amendment offered by Senator ABRAHAM. We would have the same agreement we had this morning. If the majority decides they want to file their second degree, they would have that right to do so, also.

Mr. ROTH. That is satisfactory.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, when I entered the Chamber a few moments ago, one of our colleagues was speaking, and he, as I best understood it, came out in favor of love, in favor of marriage, and in opposition to taxing death. And I thought to myself, that is an interesting bit of debate.

But one has to look at the public policies being espoused by those who are describing those positions to understand exactly how much they favor love and marriage and exactly how much they want to do with respect to our public laws and our Tax Code dealing with the taxing of death.

So I thought maybe I could just, for a couple minutes, comment on that. And then I want to talk about the various tax penalties and about an amendment that I am going to offer today.

In the Wall Street Journal of today, there is an op-ed piece written by Mr. George Soros, one of the more noted American financiers. He is chairman of the Soros Fund Management. I have no idea what Mr. Soros is worth, but suffice it to say that Mr. Soros is one of the more successful American entrepreneurs and financial gurus. He has made a substantial amount of money, and has been known as a very successful businessman. Here is what he writes in the Wall Street Journal of today. Mr. George Soros writes:

Supporters of repealing the estate tax say the legislation would save family farms and businesses and lift a terrible and unfair burden. I happen to be fortunate enough to be eligible for the tax benefits of this legislation, and so I wish I could convince myself to believe the proponents' rhetoric. Unfortunately, it just isn't so. The truth is that repealing the estate tax would give a huge tax windfall to the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans. It would provide an average tax cut of