

H.R. 3340. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow certain catch-up contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan to be made by participants age 50 or over; to reauthorize the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Office of Special Counsel; and for other purposes.

H.R. 5349. An act to facilitate the use of a portion of the former O'Reilly General Hospital in Springfield, Missouri, by the local Boys and Girls Club through the release of the reversionary interest and other interests retained by the United States in 1955 when the land was conveyed to the State of Missouri.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 3609. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the security and safety of pipelines.

H.R. 3833. An act to facilitate the creation of a new, second-level Internet domain within the United States country code domain that will be a haven for material that promotes positive experiences for children and families using the Internet, provides a safe online environment for children, and helps to prevent children from being exposed to harmful material on the Internet, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4073. An act to amend the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to increase assistance for the poorest people in developing countries under microenterprise assistance programs under those Acts, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 958. An act to provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Western Shoshone identifiable group under Indian Claims Commission Docket Numbers 326-A-1, 326-A-3, 326-K, and for other purposes.

S. 2845. An act to extend for one year procedural relief provided under the USA PATRIOT Act for individuals who were or are victims or survivors of victims of a terrorist attack on the United States on September 11, 2001.

S. 3044. An act to authorize the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency of the District of Columbia to provide for the interstate supervision of offenders on parole, probation, and supervised release.

S. 3067. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to extend certain Government information security reform for one year, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1214) "An Act to amend the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, to establish a program to ensure greater security for United States seaports, and for other purposes."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair wants to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), who is retiring as of today, for his great service.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain one-minute speeches today at the end of legislative business.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, November 13, 2002, the Private Calendar will now be called.

The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

NANCY B. WILSON

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 392) for the relief of Nancy B. Wilson.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

SO HYUN JUN

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 3758) for the relief of So Hyun Jun.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 3758

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. IMMEDIATE RELATIVE STATUS FOR SO HYUN JUN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—So Hyun Jun shall be classified as a child under section 101(b)(1)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for purposes of approval of a relative visa petition filed under section 204 of such Act by her adoptive parent and the filing of an application for an immigrant visa or adjustment of status.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If So Hyun Jun enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the petition and the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status are filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to So Hyun Jun, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, for the current or next following fiscal year, the worldwide level of family-sponsored immigrants under section 201(c)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(e) DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of So Hyun Jun shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR CITIZENSHIP.

For purposes of section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, So Hyun Jun shall

be considered to have satisfied the requirements applicable to adopted children under section 101(b)(1) of such Act.

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3758, a private bill for the relief of So Hyun Jun (So Young June). This is a no-cost, no-controversy bill that will provide needed relief to my constituents John and Ok Sun Thornton of Leesville, Louisiana who adopted So Hyun in 2001.

So Hyun was born in South Korea on September 16, 1984 to Mrs. Thornton's sister. A car accident in 1999 left her parents incapable of caring for her. At that time, Mrs. Thornton and her husband were contacted about the possibility of taking custody of So Hyun. While visiting her family in Korea, Mrs. Thornton had occasion to see first-hand the hardships suffered by her niece. The Thorntons immediately agreed to bring her to the United States.

In February 2000, So Hyun arrived in Louisiana to live with her aunt and uncle. Mrs. Thornton traveled with So Hyun back to Korea during the summer of 2000 to collect her birth certificate and other important papers. It was during this trip that Mrs. Thornton's sister and her husband agreed to relinquish their parental rights, thus giving full custody to Mr. and Mrs. Thornton. Formal adoption proceedings were begun in August of 2000 and finalized in Louisiana State Court on March 6, 2001.

The Thorntons were careful to work with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to ensure that So Hyun's move to the United States went smoothly. Mr. Thornton contacted the INS a month prior to So Hyun's arrival to inquire about the procedure for bringing her to the United States. He was told the best method would be to bring her over on a tourist visa and then file the necessary forms to complete the adoption process. During this time, Mr. Thornton was misinformed three times about the correct form to complete. In January of 2001, Mr. Thornton once again called the INS Service Center with a question about the immigration forms, as So Hyun's visa was soon expiring. He was told that there was no need to renew the visa since they were adopting the child. However, upon the adoption's finalization, the INS Adjudication Office informed the Thorntons that So Hyun's visa could not be renewed, nor could she qualify for permanent resident status, as her adoption was not finalized by her sixteenth birthday. She missed that deadline by only seven months. And this comment from the INS was the very first mention of an age requirement.

While the Immigration and Naturalization Service may not extend permanent resident status to Miss Jun, she is eligible for private relief because her adoption was begun before she turned sixteen. Without this relief, Miss Jun risks deportation to Korea where no one is legally bound to care for her. Private relief is needed to help this adopted girl remain in the United States with her new family.

I want to thank Chairmen SENSENBRENNER and GEKAS along with Ranking Members JOHN CONYERS and SHEILA JACKSON-LEE for their assistance in securing passage of H.R. 3758. I hope the Senate will follow the House's lead today by passing this private relief bill before the end of the 107th Congress.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.