

measures (and timing requirements for reporting such measures) for use under programs administered by the Secretary under the Social Security Act, including programs under titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of such Act.”.

### SEC. 3. LICENSURE AND THE ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF HEALTH INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall carry out, or contract with a private entity to carry out, a study that examines—

(1) the variation among State laws that relate to the licensure, registration, and certification of medical professionals; and

(2) how such variation among State laws impacts the secure electronic exchange of health information—

(A) among the States; and

(B) between the States and the Federal Government.

(b) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall publish a report that—

(1) describes the results of the study carried out under subsection (a); and

(2) makes recommendations to States regarding the harmonization of State laws based on the results of such study.

### SEC. 4. ENSURING PRIVACY AND SECURITY.

Nothing in this Act (or the amendments made by this Act) shall be construed to affect the scope, substance, or applicability of—

(1) section 264 of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996;

(2) sections 1171 through 1179 of the Social Security Act; and

(3) any regulation issued pursuant to any such section.

### SEC. 5. GAO STUDY.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the necessity and workability of requiring health plans (as defined in section 1171 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d)), health care clearinghouses (as defined in such section 1171), and health care providers (as defined in such section 1171) who transmit health information in electronic form, to notify patients if their individually identifiable health information (as defined in such section 1171) is wrongfully disclosed.

### SEC. 6. STUDY OF REIMBURSEMENT INCENTIVES.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall carry out, or contract with a private entity to carry out, a study that examines methods to create efficient reimbursement incentives for improving health care quality in Federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and free clinics.

### SEC. 7. HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CENTER.

Section 914 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 299b-3) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CENTER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall develop a Health Information Technology Resource Center to provide technical assistance and develop best practices to support and accelerate efforts to adopt, implement, and effectively use interoperable health information technology in compliance with section 2903 and 2907.

“(2) PURPOSES.—The purpose of the Center is to—

“(A) provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience;

“(B) accelerate the transfer of lessons learned from existing public and private sector initiatives, including those currently receiving Federal financial support;

“(C) assemble, analyze, and widely disseminate evidence and experience related to the adoption, implementation, and effective use of interoperable health information technology.

“(D) provide for the establishment of regional and local health information networks to facilitate the development of interoperability across health care settings and improve the quality of health care;

“(E) provide for the development of solutions to barriers to the exchange of electronic health information; and

“(F) conduct other activities identified by the States, local or regional health information networks, or health care stakeholders as a focus for developing and sharing best practices.

“(3) SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES.—To provide support for the activities of the Center, the Director shall modify the requirements, if necessary, that apply to the National Resource Center for Health Information Technology to provide the necessary infrastructure to support the duties and activities of the Center and facilitate information exchange across the public and private sectors.

“(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the duplication of Federal efforts with respect to the establishment of the Center, regardless of whether such efforts were carried out prior to or after the enactment of this subsection.

“(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TELEPHONE NUMBER OR WEBSITE.—The Secretary shall establish a toll-free telephone number or Internet website to provide health care providers and patients with a single point of contact to—

“(1) learn about Federal grants and technical assistance services related to interoperable health information technology;

“(2) learn about qualified health information technology and the quality measures adopted by the Federal Government under sections 2903 and 2907;

“(3) learn about regional and local health information networks for assistance with health information technology; and

“(4) disseminate additional information determined by the Secretary.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated, such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2006 and 2007 to carry out this subsection.”.

### SEC. 8. REAUTHORIZATION OF INCENTIVE GRANTS REGARDING TELEMEDICINE.

Section 330L(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-18(b)) is amended by striking “2002 through 2006” and inserting “2006 through 2010”.

## NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 10 a.m. in Room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on the In Re Tribal Lobbying Matters, Et Al. Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

## AUTHORITIES FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to conduct a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 10 a.m. in 328A, Senate Russell Office Building. The purpose of this Committee hearing will be to consider the role of U.S. agriculture in the control and eradication of avian influenza.

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

### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 17, 2005, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on “A Review of the GAO Report on the Sale of Financial Products to Military Personnel.”

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

### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 2:30 p.m., on pending Committee business.

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

### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to hold a business meeting on November 17, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. to consider the following agenda:

S. 1708 “Emergency Lease Requirements Act of 2005.”

S. 1496 “Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2005.”

S. 1165 “James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act of 2005.”

S. \_\_\_\_\_ “Army Corps Assessment Authorization for the State of Louisiana.”

Eight Committee resolutions to authorize the remainder of GSA’s FY06 Capital Investment and Leasing Program.

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

### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to hold a hearing on November 17, 2005 at 9:35 a.m. to evaluate the degree to which the preliminary findings on the failure of the levees are being incorporated into the restoration of hurricane protection.

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

### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 10 a.m. for a hearing titled, “From Proposed to Final: Evaluating Regulations for the National Security Personnel System.”