

Catholic Health Association
Eldercare America
Families USA
Meals on Wheels Association of America
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
National Caucus and Center on Black Aged
National Council on the Aging
National Council of Senior Citizens
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Senior Citizens Law Center

AMENDMENT NO. 1272

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I understand we are back on the pending underlying GREGG amendment, and that the Senator from South Carolina has time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). The Senator is correct. The regular order now is the GREGG amendment with 10 minutes on each side.

Mr. GREGG. I ask unanimous consent that the time be reserved for the parties presently assigned to it, and I make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1292, WITHDRAWN

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask that the amendment I had offered relative to prohibition on tobacco litigation be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right. The amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. HARKIN. I would like to address a question to the chairman of the Subcommittee, the Senator from New Hampshire, regarding funding for the Civil Division of the Justice Department.

In his State of the Union Address, President Clinton announced that the Federal Government intended to sue the nation's tobacco companies to recover billions of dollars in smoking-related health care costs reimbursed by federal health care programs. The administration's FY 2000 budget requested \$15 million in new resources for the Civil Division of the Justice Department and \$5 million for the Fees and Expenses of Witnesses account support this litigation effort.

Unfortunately, we were unable to provide the additional resources requested by the administration for the Civil Division to carry out this task. While I regret that the committee was unable to provide the new funds, it is my understanding that if the Justice Department deems this activity to be a high priority, base funding, including

funds from the Fees and Expenses of Witnesses account, can be used for this purpose.

I ask the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee if my understanding of the bill and the report language is correct?

Mr. GREGG. I agree with the Senator from Iowa. While the committee was unable to provide new funding as the administration requested, nothing in the bill or the report language prohibits the Department from using generally appropriated funds, including funds from the Fees and Expenses of Witnesses Account, to pursue this litigation if the Department concludes such litigation has merit under existing law.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I also agree with Senator HARKIN.

Mr. GRAHAM. I would like to address the chairman of the subcommittee. Does the chairman also agree to strike the language on page 15 and or page 25 of Senate Report 106-76 relating to funding for tobacco litigation.

Mr. GREGG. That is correct.

Mr. President, I yield to my colleague and cosponsor of the amendment, the Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Florida, and also Senator GREGG, Senator HOLLINGS, Senator HARKIN, and others who have been party to the establishment of this colloquy. I think the RECORD is eminently clear that the Department of Justice has the authority to move forward on tobacco litigation without any limitation whatsoever from this legislation.

I am glad we achieved that and did it in a bipartisan fashion. I thank Senator GRAHAM for his leadership. I was happy to join him on the amendment and to be part of this colloquy.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to proceed as in morning business.

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

Mr. GREGG. Will the Senator yield? Is there a time limit?

Mr. KERRY. Ten minutes.

Mr. GREGG. I thank the Senator.

Mr. KERRY. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. KERRY pertaining to the introduction of S. 1420 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum. I withhold that request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
H.R. 1501

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I have a unanimous consent request with regard to the appointment of conferees on the juvenile justice bill.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1501, the House juvenile justice bill, and all after the enacting clause be stricken, the text of S. 254, as passed by the Senate, except for the Feinstein amendment No. 343, as modified, be inserted in lieu thereof, the bill be advanced to third reading and passage occur, without any intervening action or debate.

I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, the conferees be instructed to include the above described amendment No. 343 in the conference report, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I regret the objection. I understand, though, the Senator's feeling on this. As a result of the objection, I have no other alternative than to move to proceed to H.R. 1501 and file a cloture motion on that motion to proceed. Having said that, this will be the first of many steps necessary to send this important juvenile justice bill to conference.

JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ACT
OF 1999—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. LOTT. With that, I move to proceed to H.R. 1501 and send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 165, H.R. 1501, the juvenile justice bill.

Trent Lott, Frank Murkowski, Chuck Hagel, Bill Frist, Jeff Sessions, Thad Cochran, Rick Santorum, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Orrin Hatch, John Ashcroft, Robert F. Bennett, Pat Roberts, Jim Jeffords, Arlen Specter, Judd Gregg, and Christopher Bond.

CALL OF THE ROLL

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I remind Members that the vote will occur then

on Monday, and I now ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived and the vote occur at 5 p.m. on Monday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

Mr. LOTT. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I withhold on that. I see there are Senators ready to speak.

Ms. COLLINS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000—Con-
tinued

AMENDMENT NO. 1296

(Purpose: Relating to telephone area codes)

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside, and I send to the desk a sense-of-the-Senate amendment on behalf of myself and Senators GREGG, HOLLINGS, TORRICELLI, FEINGOLD, SMITH of New Hampshire, and LIEBERMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, the pending amendment is set aside, and the clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS], for herself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, and Mr. LIEBERMAN proposes an amendment numbered 1296.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 111, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

SEC. 620 (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) When telephone area codes were first introduced in 1947, 86 area codes covered all of North America. There are now more than 215 area codes, and an additional 70 area codes may be required in the next 2 years.

(2) The current system for allocating numbers to telecommunications carriers is woefully inefficient, leading to the exhaustion of a telephone area code long before all the telephone numbers covered by the area code are actually in use.

(3) The proliferation of new telephone area codes causes economic dislocation for businesses and unnecessary cost, confusion, and inconvenience for households.

(4) Principles and approaches exist that would increase the efficiency with which telecommunications carriers use telephone numbering resources.

(5) The May 27, 1999, rulemaking proceeding of the Federal Communications Commission relating to numbering resource optimization seeks to address the growing problem of the exhaustion of telephone area codes.

(b) SENSE OF SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Federal Communications Commission shall release its report and order on numbering resource optimization not later than December 31, 1999;

(2) such report and order should minimize any disruptions and costs to consumers and businesses associated with the implementation of such report and order; and

(3) such report and order should apply not only to large metropolitan areas but to all areas of the United States that are facing the problem of exhaustion of telephone numbers.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to offer a sense-of-the-Senate amendment to address a growing problem in this country, and that is the needless proliferation of area codes.

As many of my colleagues have witnessed in their own States, new area codes are being imposed upon consumers and businesses at a dizzying pace. While the modern technology of faxes, cell phones, pagers, and computer modems has played a role in creating this problem, area code exhaustion stems largely from the woefully inefficient system for allocating numbers to local telephone companies. This leads to the exhaustion of an area code long before all of the telephone numbers covered by that code actually have been used.

My own home State of Maine dramatically illustrates this problem. We have a population in Maine of approximately 1.2 million people. Within our "207" area code, there are roughly 8 million usable numbers and some 5.7 million of these numbers are still unused. Incredibly enough, however, Maine has been notified that it will be forced to add a new area code by the year 2001.

This paradigm of inefficiency in the midst of America's telecommunications revolution might almost be amusing were it not for the fact that it causes real hardships for many small businesses, particularly small businesses in the tourism industry. Businesspeople throughout my State, particularly in the coastal communities, have contacted me to express their concern. I have heard from a gallery owner in Rockport, an innkeeper in Bar Harbor, and a schooner captain in Rockland, who have expressed to me their concern about the costs involved in updating brochures, business cards, and other promotional literature, all of which will be necessitated by the creation of a new area code—the needless creation of a new area code. As one innkeeper told me, it takes as long as 2 years to revise certain guidebooks, which are the principal means by which he communicates with potential customers.

Changing the area code could lead to a significant loss in business for many

small tourism businesses as well as unneeded expense for these small companies. Moreover, along with the economic costs, a new area code creates tremendous disruption and confusion for consumers.

The Federal Communications Commission has initiated a rulemaking procedure to address this growing problem. But since time is of the essence in ensuring that Maine and many other States not be forced to add another unnecessary area code, my amendment requires that the FCC release its final report and order no later than March 31 of next year.

It also specifies that the order shall minimize costs and disruptions to consumers and businesses located in all areas of the country, not just in major cities. The FCC right now appears to be focusing mainly on the larger markets and ignoring the implications for rural areas.

It is my understanding that this amendment is acceptable to the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee as well as the distinguished ranking minority member. I thank them very much for their cooperation and assistance in drafting this amendment, as well as for their cosponsorship of it.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Maine. It is very important. We agree with it. We appreciate her leadership on this.

Mr. GREGG. I also commend the Senator from Maine. This is a serious problem, not only in Maine but across the border in New Hampshire where we have the same concern about area codes. So I congratulate her on this sense-of-the-Senate amendment and strongly support it. I believe we can accept it.

I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1296) was agreed to.

Ms. COLLINS. I thank both Senators for their cooperation and assistance in this matter.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague from Maine, Senator COLLINS, to introduce an amendment regarding the issue of area code conservation. The rapid proliferation of area codes is a problem facing the citizens of New Jersey, as well as the rest of the nation.

The extraordinary growth of the telecommunications industry in recent years has created a unique new problem. In just the last four years, the number of area codes in the United States has increased almost 60 percent. Continued growth will require that even the newest area codes be split and replaced again in the near future.

This problem has been particularly acute in New Jersey. Prior to 1991, the