

excessive or unnecessary regulation of small businesses;

“(4) determine the impact of the tax structure on small businesses and make legislative, regulatory, and other proposals for altering the tax structure to enable all small businesses to realize their potential for contributing to the improvement of the Nation’s economic well-being;

“(5) study the ability of financial markets and institutions to meet small business credit needs and determine the impact of government demands on credit for small businesses;

“(6) determine financial resource availability and recommend methods for—

“(A) delivery of financial assistance to minority and women-owned enterprises, including methods for securing equity capital;

“(B) generating markets for goods and services;

“(C) providing effective business education, more effective management and technical assistance, and training; and

“(D) assistance in complying with Federal, State, and local laws;

“(7) evaluate the efforts of Federal agencies and the private sector to assist minority and women-owned enterprises;

“(8) make such recommendations as may be appropriate to assist the development and strengthening of minority, women-owned, and other small businesses;

“(9) recommend specific measures for creating an environment in which all businesses will have the opportunity to—

“(A) compete effectively and expand to their full potential; and

“(B) ascertain any common reasons for small business successes and failures;

“(10) determine the desirability of developing a set of rational, objective criteria to be used to define small business, and to develop such criteria, if appropriate; and

“(11) make recommendations and submit reports to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committees on Small Business of the Senate and the House of Representatives and the Administrator with respect to issues and regulations affecting small businesses and the necessity for corrective action by the Administrator, any Federal department or agency, or Congress.

“(d) **ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS.**—The Office shall, on a continuing basis—

“(1) serve as a focal point for the receipt of complaints, criticisms, and suggestions concerning the policies and activities of the Administration and any other department or agency of the Federal Government that affects small businesses;

“(2) counsel small businesses on the means by which to resolve questions and problems concerning the relationship between small businesses and the Federal Government;

“(3) develop proposals for changes in the policies and activities of any agency of the Federal Government that will better fulfill the purposes of this section and communicate such proposals to the appropriate Federal agencies;

“(4) represent the views and interests of small businesses before other Federal agencies whose policies and activities may affect small business;

“(5) enlist the cooperation and assistance of public and private agencies, businesses, and other organizations in disseminating information about the programs and services provided by the Federal Government that are of benefit to small businesses, and information on the means by which small businesses can participate in or make use of such programs and services; and

“(6) carry out the responsibilities of the Office under chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code.

“(e) **STAFF AND POWERS.**—

“(1) **STAFF.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Chief Counsel may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate such additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Office to perform its duties under this section.

“(B) **COMPENSATION.**—The Chief Counsel may fix the compensation of personnel appointed under this paragraph without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, but at rates not to exceed the minimum rate payable for a position at GS-15 of the General Schedule, except that not more than 14 employees of the Office at any one time may be compensated at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate payable for a position at GS-15 of the General Schedule.

“(2) **POWERS.**—In carrying out this section, the Chief Counsel may—

“(A) procure temporary and intermittent services to the same extent as is authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code;

“(B) consult with—

“(i) experts and authorities in the fields of small business investment, venture capital, investment and commercial banking, and other comparable financial institutions involved in the financing of business; and

“(ii) individuals with regulatory, legal, economic, or financial expertise, including members of the academic community, and individuals who generally represent the public interest;

“(C) use the services of the National Advisory Council established under section 8(b) and, in accordance with that section, appoint such other advisory boards or committees as the Chief Counsel determines to be reasonably necessary and appropriate to carry out this section; and

“(D) hold hearings and sit and act at such times and places as the Chief Counsel determines to be appropriate.

“(f) **OVERHEAD AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**—The Administrator shall provide the Office with appropriate and adequate office space at central and field office locations of the Administration, together with such equipment, office supplies, and communications facilities and services as may be necessary for the operation of such offices, and shall provide necessary maintenance services for such offices and the equipment and facilities located therein.

“(g) **INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—The Chief Counsel may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such information as the Chief Counsel considers to be necessary to carry out this section. Upon request of the Chief Counsel, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Office.

“(h) **REPORTS.**—

“(1) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Not less than annually, the Chief Counsel shall submit to the President and to the Committees on Small Business of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on agency compliance with chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) **ADDITIONAL REPORTS.**—In addition to the reports required under paragraph (1) of

this subsection and subsection (c)(12), the Chief Counsel may prepare and publish such reports as the Chief Counsel determines to be appropriate.

“(3) **PROHIBITION.**—No report under this section shall be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget or to any other department or agency of the Federal Government for any purpose before submission of the report to the President and to Congress.

“(i) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Office to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year.

“(2) **AVAILABILITY.**—Any sums appropriated under paragraph (1) shall remain available, without fiscal year limitation, until expended.”.

(b) **REPEAL.**—Title II of Public Law 94-305 (15 U.S.C. 634a et seq.) is repealed.

(c) **INCUMBENT CHIEF COUNSEL FOR ADVOCACY.**—The individual serving as the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration on the date of enactment of this Act shall continue to serve in that position after such date in accordance with section 32 of the Small Business Act, as amended by this section.

TO PROVIDE FOR THE HOLDING OF COURT IN NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI IN THE SAME MANNER AS COURT IS HELD IN VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 386, S. 1418.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1418) to provide for the holding of court in Natchez, Mississippi, in the same manner as court is held in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statement relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1418) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1418

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

SECTION 1. HOLDING OF COURT AT NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI.

Section 104(b)(3) of title 28, United States Code, is amended in the second sentence by striking all beginning with the colon through “United States”.

MISSOURI-NEBRASKA BOUNDARY COMPACT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 389, H.J. Res. 54.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.