stamps. Since 1996, the transition from paper coupons to electronic benefit transfers has been a significant amount of money. For example, while the food stamp caseload decreased 24 percent from fiscal year 1995 to 1998, food stamp production and redemption costs dropped by an impressive 39 percent. While it is estimated the bill’s implementation will cost the federal government no more than $500,000 annually, it will save at least $20 million per year when paper coupons are a thing of the past.

This legislation is sound public policy that enjoys strong bipartisan support. I thank my colleagues, Senators LEAHY, LUGAR, HARKIN, CRAIG, COCHRAN, CRapo, KOHl, and KERREY for joining me as co-sponsors of this bill. This legislation is vitally important to every food stamp recipient, every state food stamp program administrator, and every grocery store in the country. I thank the presiding officer, and I yield the floor.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to, the bill be read a third time and passed, as amended, 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 amendment (No. 2785) was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1733), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

[The bill was not available for printing. It will appear in a future edition of the Record.]

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 3194

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the enrollment of Senate Concurrent Resolution 77 now at the desk introduced earlier by Senators LOTT and DASCHLE, and that the resolution be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 77) making technical corrections to the enrollment of H.R. 3194.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the concurrent resolution is agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 77) was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 77) is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 77
Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Clerk of the House of Representatives, in the enrollment of the bill (H. R. 3194), making appropriations for the Government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, shall make the following corrections:

At the appropriate place of the bill insert the following:

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION PRODUCER-OWNED MARKETING ASSOCIATIONS FORGIVENESS

SEC. 1. The Secretary of Agriculture shall reduce the amount of any principal due on a loan made to marketing association incorporated in the State of North Carolina for the 1999 crop of an agricultural commodity by at least 75 percent if the marketing association suffered losses of the agricultural commodity in a county with respect to which—(1) a natural disaster was declared by the Secretary for losses due to Hurricane Dennis, Floyd, or Irene; or (2) a major disaster was declared by the President for losses due to Hurricane Dennis, Floyd, or Irene under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

If the Secretary assigns a grade quality for the 1999 crop of an agricultural commodity marketed by an association described in this section that is below the base quality of the agricultural commodity, the Secretary shall compensate the association for losses incurred by the association as a result of the reduction in grade quality.

Up to $81,000,000 of the resources of the Commodity Credit Corporation shall be used by the Secretary to cover the cost of this section. Provided That the entire amount necessary to carry out this section shall be available only to the extent that an official budget request for the entire amount, that includes designation of the entire amount of the request as an emergency requirement as defined in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, is transmitted by the President to the Congress: Provided further, That the entire amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) and Section 252(e) of such Act.

Provision of the Secretary shall give priority to the repair of structures essential to the operation of the farm.

EXEMPTIONS PERSUANT TO THE FEDERAL REPORTS ELIMINATION AND SUNSET ACT OF 1995

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3111, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3111) to exempt certain reports from automatic elimination and sunset pursuant to the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2786
(Purpose: To provide continued reporting of intercepted wire, oral, and electronic communications)

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Senator LEAHY has an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins), for Mr. LEAHY, proposes an amendment number 2786.

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 2. (a) SHORT TITLE—This Act may be cited as the “Continued Reporting of Intercepted Wire, Oral, and Electronic Communications Act.”

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Section 2519(b)(3) of title 18, United States Code, requires the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to transmit to Congress a full and complete annual report concerning the number of applications for orders authorizing or approving the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications. This Act shall include information specified in section 2519(b).

(2) The Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 provides for the termination of certain laws requiring submittal to Congress of annual, semiannual, and regular periodic reports as of December 21, 1999, 4 years from the effective date of that Act.

(3) Due to the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995, the Administrative Office of United States Courts is not required to submit that annual report described in section 219(3) of title 18, United States Code, as of December 21, 1999.

(c) CONTINUED REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) CONTINUED REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 2519 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) The reports required to be filed by subsection (3) are exempt from the terminations of section 3003(a) of the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–66).

(2) E NCRYPTION REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 3003(b)(3) of the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–66) is amended—

(a) in paragraph (31), by striking “or” at the end of clause (i) and inserting “and” in its place; and

(b) in paragraph (32), by striking the period and inserting “; or”;

(c) by adding at the end the following:

“(33) section 2519(b) of title 18, United States Code.”;

(d) E NCRYPTION REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) Section 2519(b)(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “and (iv)” and inserting “(iv) the number of orders in which encryption prevented and whether such encryption prevented law enforcement from obtaining the plain text of communications intercepted pursuant to such order, and (v)”.

(2) The encryption reporting requirement in subsection (a) shall be effective for the report transmittal by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts for calendar year 2000 and in subsequent reports.

(e) REPORTS CONCERNING PEN Registers and Trap and Trace Devices.—Section 3126 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the period and inserting “, which report shall include information concerning the period of time the record was utilized by the order, and the number and duration of any extensions of the order;
“(2) the offense specified in the order or application for the order; and
“(3) the number of investigations involved; and
“(4) the number and nature of the facilities affected; and
“(5) the identity, including district, of the authorizing or approving the interception of wire, oral or electronic communications. By letter dated September 3, 1999, the AO advised that it would no longer be required pursuant to the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995. I commend the AO for alerting Congress that their responsibility for the wiretap reports would lapse at the end of this year, and for doing so in time for Congress to take action.

The AO has done an excellent job of preparing the wiretap reports. We need to continue the AO's objective work in a consistent manner. If another agency took over this important task at this juncture and the numbers came out in a different format, it would immediately generate questions and concerns over the legitimacy and accuracy of the contents of that report.

In addition, it would create difficulties in comparing statistics from prior years going back to 1969 and complicate the job of congressional oversight. Furthermore, transferring this reporting duty to another agency might create delays in issuance of the report since no other agency has the methodology in place. Finally, federal, state and local agencies are well accustomed to the reporting methodology developed by the AO. Notifying all these agencies that the reporting standards and agency have changed would inevitably create more confusion and more expense as law enforcement agencies across the country are forced to learn a new system and develop a liaison within the new agency.

The system in place now has worked well and we should avoid any disruption. We know how quickly law enforcement may be subjected to criticism over their use of these surreptitious surveillance tools and we should avoid aggravating these sensitivities by changing the reporting agency and methodology on little to no notice. I appreciate, however, the AO's interest in transferring the wiretap reporting requirement to another entity. Any such transfer must be accomplished with a minimum of disruption to the collection and reporting of information and with complete assurances that any new entity is able to fulfill this important job as capably as the AO has done.

The amendment would update the reporting requirements currently in place with one additional reporting requirement. Specifically, the amendment would require the wiretap reports prepared beginning in the calendar year 2000 to include information on the number of orders in which encryption was encountered and whether such encryption prevented law enforcement from obtaining the plain text of communications intercepted pursuant to such order.

Encryption technology is critical to protect sensitive computer and online information. Yet, the same technology poses challenges to law enforcement when it is exploited by criminals to hide evidence or the fruits of criminal activities. A report by the U.S. Working Group on Organized Crime titled, "Encryption and Evolving Technologies: Tools of Organized Crime and Futuristic Technology" released in 1997, reported anecdotal case studies on the use of encryption in furtherance of criminal activities in order to estimate the future impact of encryption on law enforcement. The report noted the need for "an ongoing study of the effect of encryption and other information technologies on investigations, prosecutions, and intelligence operations". As part of this study, "a database of case information from federal and local law enforcement and intelligence agencies should be established and maintained."

Adding a requirement that reports be furnished on the number of occasions when encryption is encountered by law enforcement is a far more reliable basis than anecdotal evidence on which to assess law enforcement needs and make sensible policy in this area.

The final section of this amendment would codify the information that the Attorney General already provides on pen register and trap and trace device orders, and would require further information on where such orders are issued and the types of facilities—telephone, computer, pager or other device—to which the order relates. Under the Electronic Communications Privacy Act ("ECPA") of 1986, P.L. 99–508, codified at 18 U.S.C. §2518, the Attorney General of the United States is required to report annually to the Congress on the number of pen register orders and orders for trap and trace devices applied for by law enforcement agencies of the Department of Justice. As the original sponsor of ECPA, I believe that adequate oversight of the surveillance activities of federal law enforcement could only be accomplished with reporting requirements such as the one included in this law.

The reports furnished by the Attorney General on an annual basis compile information from five components of the Department of Justice: the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the United States Marshals Service and the Office of the Inspector General. This report contains information on the number of original and extension orders made to the courts for authorization to use both pen register and trap and trace devices, information concerning the number of investigations involved, the offenses on which the applications were predicted and the number of people whose telephone facilities were affected.

These specific categories of information are useful, and the amendment would direct the Attorney General to continue providing these specific categories of information. In addition, the amendment would direct the Attorney General to include information on the identity, including the district, of the agency making the application and the person authorizing the application. This way, the Congress and the public will be informed of those jurisdictions using this surveillance technique—information which is currently not included in the Attorney General's annual reports.

The requirement for preparation of the wiretap reports will soon lapse so I am delighted to see the Congress take prompt action on this legislation to continue the requirement for submission of the wiretap reports and to update the reporting requirements for both the wiretap reports submitted by the AO and the pen register and trap and trace reports submitted by the Attorney General.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, 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 amendment (No. 2786) was agreed to.

The bill (H. R. 3111), as amended, was read the third time and passed.