

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 999. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to improve quality of coastal recreation waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1184. An act to authorize appropriations for carrying out the Earthquake Hazards Reductions Act of 1977 for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2672. A communication from the Director, Torts Branch, Civil Division, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Radiation Exposure Compensation Act: Evidentiary Requirements; Definitions, and Number of Times Claims May Be Filed" (RIN 1105-AA49), received on April 15, 1999, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2673. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a detailed boundary map for a 39-mile segment of the Missouri National Recreation River; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2674. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Comprehensive Electricity Competition Act"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2675. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of the proposed issuance of an export license relative to Turkey; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2676. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Foreign Agents Registration Act for the period January 1, 1998 through June 30, 1998; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2677. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the annex on domestic preparedness to the report on government-wide spending to combat terrorism; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2678. A communication from the Under Secretary, Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to actions taken to develop an integrated program to prevent and respond to terrorist incidents involving weapons of mass destruction; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2679. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on government-wide spending to combat terrorism; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2680. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the financial report of the United

States government for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 857. A bill to amend the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 to cover Federal facilities; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

S. 858. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 18 Greenville Street in Newnan, Georgia, as the "Lewis R. Morgan Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 859. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to require a refund value for certain beverage containers, to provide resources for State pollution prevention and recycling programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MACK, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 860. A bill to require country of origin labeling of perishable agricultural commodities imported into the United States and to establish penalties for violations of the labeling requirements; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REED, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 861. A bill to designate certain Federal land in the State of Utah as wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 862. A bill to protect Social Security surpluses and reserve a portion of non-Social Security surpluses to strengthen and protect Medicare; to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs, jointly, pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, with instructions that if one Committee reports, the other Committee have thirty days to report or be discharged.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 863. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for medicare coverage of all certified nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. CHAFEE):

S. 864. A bill to designate April 22 as Earth Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BIDEN:

S. 865. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the same tax treatment for danger pay allowance as for combat pay; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 866. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to revise existing regulations concerning the conditions of participation for hospitals and ambulatory

surgical centers under the medicare program relating to certified registered nurse anesthetists' services to make the regulations consistent with State supervision requirements; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROTH (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KOHL, Mr. DODD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 867. A bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. MACK):

S. 868. A bill to make forestry insurance plans available to owners and operators of private forest land, to encourage the use of prescribed burning and fuel treatment methods on private forest land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 869. A bill for the relief of Mina Vahedi Notash; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. ROTH, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BOND):

S. 870. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) to increase the efficiency and accountability of Offices of Inspector General within Federal departments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 871. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to ensure that veterans of the United States Armed Forces are eligible for discretionary relief from detention, deportation, exclusion, and removal, and for other reasons; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 872. A bill to impose certain limits on the receipt of out-of-State municipal solid waste, to authorize State and local controls over the flow of municipal solid waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 873. A bill to close the United States Army School of the Americas; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. THURMOND (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. DODD):

S. Res. 82. A resolution expressing the gratitude of the United States Senate for the service of Thomas B. Griffith, Legal Counsel for the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. Res. 83. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the settlement of claims of citizens of Germany regarding

deaths resulting from the accident near Cavalese, Italy, on February 3, 1998, before the settlement of claims with respect to the deaths of members of the United States Air Force resulting from the accident off Namibia on September 13, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. DODD):

S. Con. Res. 29. A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for concerts to be authorized by the National Symphony Orchestra; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 857. A bill to amend the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 to cover Federal facilities; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

FEDERAL FACILITIES COMMUNITY RIGHT TO KNOW ACT OF 1999

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation—the Federal Facilities Community Right-To-Know Act of 1999—which provides that the federal government is held to the same reporting requirements under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986 as private entities. In 1986, Congress directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a national inventory to inform the public about chemicals used and released in their communities. Since enactment of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act, manufacturers have been required to keep extensive records on how they use and store hazardous chemicals and report releases of hundreds of hazardous chemicals annually. EPA compiles the reported information into the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI).

The Toxic Release Inventory is a publicly available data base containing specific chemical release and transfer information from manufacturing facilities throughout the United States. The TRI is intended to promote planning for chemical emergencies and to provide information to the public regarding the presence and release of toxic and hazardous chemicals in their communities.

In August 1993, President Clinton signed Executive Order 12856, which required Federal facilities to begin submitting TRI reports beginning in calendar year 1994 activities. I commend President Clinton for taking this action. However, this executive order does not have the force of law and could be changed by a future Administration. The National Governors Association's policy on federal facilities states that "Congress should ensure that federal and state 'right to know' requirements apply to federal facilities." My legislation simply amends

the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act to cover federal facilities. It is important for the Federal government to protect the environment and its citizens from hazardous substances. People living near federal facilities have the right to know what hazardous substances are being released into the environment by these facilities so they can better protect themselves and their children from these potential threats. It is my strong belief that federal facilities should be treated the same as private entities. My legislation attempts to move us closer towards that goal.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 859. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to require a refund value for certain beverage containers, to provide resources for State pollution prevention and recycling programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

NATIONAL BEVERAGE CONTAINER REUSE AND RECYCLING ACT OF 1999

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of Earth Day to introduce the National Beverage Container Reuse and Recycling Act of 1999. I introduce this bill again today because I firmly believe that deposit laws are a common sense, proven method to increase recycling, save energy, create jobs, and decrease the generation of waste and proliferation of landfills. Unfortunately, recycling rates for beverage containers have recently dropped, making this legislation even more important.

The experience of ten states, including Vermont, attest to the success of a deposit law or bottle bill as it is commonly called. The recycling rates in these states for aluminum cans is 80 percent, while the overall national average in 1998 was only 55 percent. Cans recycled in deposit states accounted for half of all cans recycled in the country during this period. Although a national recycling rate of 55 percent may seem significant, every three seconds, 14,000 aluminum cans are discarded as waste.

Such waste is rapidly overflowing landfills, washing up on our beaches, and piling up on our roadways. Our country's solid waste problems are very real, and they will continue to haunt us until we take action. The throw-away ethic that has emerged in this country is not insurmountable, and recycling is part of the solution.

The concept of a national bottle bill is simple: to provide the consumer with an incentive to return the container for reuse or recycling. Consumers pay a nominal cost per bottle or can when purchasing a beverage and are refunded their money when they bring the container back either to a retailer or redemption center. Retailers are paid a fee for their participation in the pro-

gram, and any unclaimed deposits are used to finance state environmental programs.

Under my proposal, a 10-cent deposit on certain beverage containers would take effect in states which have beverage container recovery rates of less than 70 percent, the minimum recovery rate achieved by existing bottle bill states. Labels showing the deposit value would be affixed to containers, and retailers would receive a 2-cent fee per container for their participation in the program.

This legislation I introduce today is consistent with our nation's solid waste management objectives. A national bottle bill would reduce solid waste and litter, save natural resources and energy, and create a much needed partnership between consumers, industry, and local governments. I urge my colleagues to join these ten states, including Vermont, and support a nationwide bottle deposit law. Because for our children, the health of the planet may be our most enduring legacy.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MACK, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 860. A bill to require country of origin labeling of perishable agricultural commodities imported into the United States and to establish penalties for violations of the labeling requirements; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

IMPORTED PRODUCE LABELING ACT OF 1999

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that would require country of origin labeling of perishable agricultural commodities imported into the United States. I offer the "Imported Produce Labeling Act" to ensure that Americans know the origin of every orange, banana, tomato, cucumber, and green pepper on display in the grocery store.

For two decades, Floridians shopping at their local grocery stores have been able to make educated choices about the food products they purchase for their families. In 1979, in my first year as Governor, I proudly signed legislation to make country of origin labels commonplace in produce sections all over Florida. This labeling requirement has proven to be neither complicated nor burdensome for Florida's farmers or retailers.

Country of origin labeling is not new to the American marketplace. For decades, "Made In" labels have been as visible as price tags on clothes, toys, television sets, watches, and many other products. It makes little sense that such labels are nowhere to be found in the produce section of grocery stores in the vast majority of states.

The current lack of identifying information on produce means that Americans who wish to heed government health warnings about foreign products or who have justifiable concerns about