

programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BURNS (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. KERREY, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 961. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm And Rural Development Act to improve shared appreciation arrangements; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. DODD):

S. 962. A bill to allow a deduction from gross income for year 2000 computer conversion costs of small businesses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 963. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to preserve family-held forest lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. 964. A bill to provide for equitable compensation for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 965. A bill to restore a United States voluntary contribution to the United Nations Population Fund; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. REID:

S. 966. A bill to require medicare providers to disclose publicly staffing and performance in order to promote improved consumer information and choice, to protect employees of medicare providers who report concerns about the safety and quality of services provided by medicare providers or who report violations of Federal or State law by those providers, and to require review of the impact on public health and safety of proposed mergers and acquisitions of medicare providers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 967. A bill to provide a uniform national standard to ensure that concealed firearms are available only to authorized persons for lawful purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MACK, Mr. CLELAND, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. ROBB):

S. 968. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to State agencies with responsibility for water source development, for the purposes of maximizing the available water supply and protecting the environment through the development of alternative water sources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 969. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 to authorize schools to apply appropriate discipline measures in cases where students have weapons or threaten to harm others, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. REED, Mr. HARKIN, Mr.

MCCONNELL, Mr. MOYNIHAN, and Mr. KOHL):

S. Res. 96. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding a peaceful process of self-determination in East Timor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GORTON, Mr. LOTT, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MACK, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. Res. 97. A resolution designating the week of May 2 through 8, 1999, as the 14th Annual Teacher Appreciation Week, and designating Tuesday, May 4, 1999, as National Teacher Day; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. KERRY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. THURMOND, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CLELAND, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 959. A bill to establish a National Ocean Council, a Commission on Ocean Policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

THE OCEANS ACT OF 1999

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Oceans Act of 1999, legislation that the Senate unanimously passed in November 1997. I am pleased to be joined in this endeavor by Senators STEVENS, KERRY, BREAUX, INOUE, KENNEDY, BOXER, BIDEN, LAUTENBERG, AKAKA, MURKOWSKI, THURMOND, MURRAY, CLELAND, and WYDEN. Mr. President, plainly and simply, this bill calls for a plan of action for the twenty-first century to explore, protect, and use our oceans and coasts through the coming millennium.

This is not the first time we have faced the need for a national ocean policy. Three decades ago, our Nation roared into space, investing tens of billions of dollars to investigate the moon and the Sea of Tranquility. During that golden era of science, some of us also recognized the importance of exploring the seas on our own planet. In 1966, Congress enacted the Marine Resources and Engineering Development Act in order to define national objectives and programs with respect to the oceans. That legislation laid the foundation for U.S. ocean and coastal policy and programs and has guided their development for three decades. I was elected to the Senate just three months after the 1966 Act was enacted into law, but I am pleased that both Senators INOUE and KENNEDY, the two cosponsors of the 1966 Act still serving in the Senate, have agreed to join me today in introducing the Oceans Act.

One of the central elements of the 1966 Act was establishment of a presi-

dential commission to develop a plan for national action in the oceans and atmosphere. Dr. Julius A. Stratton, a former president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and then-chairman of the Ford Foundation, led the Commission on an unprecedented, and since unrepeated, investigation of this nation's relationship with the oceans and the atmosphere. The Stratton Commission and its congressional advisors (including Senators Warren G. Magnuson and Norris Cotton) worked together in a bipartisan fashion. In fact, the Commission was established and carried out its mandate in the Democratic Administration of Lyndon Johnson and saw its findings implemented by the Republicans under President Richard Nixon. With a staff of 35 people, the commissioners hear and consulted over 1,000 people, visited every coastal area of this country, and submitted some 126 recommendations in a 1969 report to Congress entitled *Our Nation and the Sea*. Those recommendations led directly to the creation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1970, laid the groundwork for enactment of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) in 1972, and established priorities for federal ocean activities that have guided this Nation for almost thirty years.

While the Stratton Commission performed its job with vision and integrity, the world has changed since 1966. Today, half of the U.S. population lives within 50 miles of our shores and more than 30 percent of the Gross Domestic Product is generated in the coastal zone. Ocean and coastal resources once considered inexhaustible are severely depleted, and wetlands and other marine habitats are threatened by pollution and human activities. In addition, the U.S. regulatory and legal framework has developed over the years with the passage of a number of statutes in addition to CZMA. These include the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, and the Oil Pollution Act. It is time to conduct a review that looks at coordination and duplication of programs and policies developed under these laws.

Today people who work and live on the water face a patchwork of confusing and sometimes contradictory federal and state regulations. This bill would allow us to reduce conflicts while maintaining environmental and health safeguards. One illustration of the type of situation that must be corrected is the southeast shrimp trawl fishery. Shrimpers are required under the Endangered Species Act to use panels or grates (known as turtle excluder devices or TEDs) in their nets to protect endangered sea turtles. The panels