

S. 3121: A bill to reauthorize programs to assist small business concerns, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-422).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3059: A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require motor vehicle manufacturers and motor vehicle equipment manufacturers to obtain information and maintain records about potential safety defects in their foreign products that may affect the safety of vehicles and equipment in the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-423).

By Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 2899: A bill to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States' relationship with Native Hawaiians, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-424).

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4868: A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DASCHLE (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3117. A bill to establish an Office of Children's Services within the Department of Justice to coordinate and implement Government actions involving unaccompanied alien children to ensure that their best interests are held paramount in immigration proceedings and actions involving them; to prescribe standards for their custody, release, and detention; to improve policies for their permanent protection; and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 3118. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a windfall profits adjustment on crude oil (and products thereof) and to fund heating assistance for consumers and small business owners; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Oregon):

S. 3119. A bill to amend the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the establishment of Fort Clatsop National Memorial in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 3120. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify restrictions added by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 3121. A bill to reauthorize programs to assist small business concerns, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Small Business; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HUTCHINSON:

S. 3122. A bill to amend title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to re-

quire, as a precondition to commencing a civil action with respect to a place of public accommodation or a commercial facility, that an opportunity be provided to correct alleged violations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 3123. A bill to provide for Federal class action reform; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. THURMOND):

S. 3124. A bill to establish grants for drug treatment alternative to prison programs administered by State or local prosecutors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONRAD:

S. 3125. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and title XVIII of the Social Security Act to sustain access to vital emergency medical services in rural areas; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAGEL (for himself and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 3126. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to revise and improve provisions relating to famine prevention and freedom from hunger; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. FITZGERALD):

S. 3127. A bill to protect infants who are born alive; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROTH (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. BIDEN):

S.J. Res. 53. A resolution to commemorate fallen firefighters by lowering the American flag to half-staff on the day of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DASCHLE (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3117. A bill to establish an Office of Children's Services within the Department of Justice to coordinate and implement Government actions involving unaccompanied alien children to ensure that their best interests are held paramount in immigration proceedings and actions involving them; to prescribe standards for their custody, release, and detention; to improve policies for their permanent protection; and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to change the way unaccompanied immigrant children are treated while in the custody of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act of 2000 would ensure that the federal government addresses the special needs of thousands of unaccompanied alien children who enter the U.S. It would ensure that these children have a fair opportunity to obtain humanitarian relief when eligible.

Central throughout this legislation are two concepts:

(1) The United States government has a special responsibility to protect unaccompanied children in its custody; and

(2) In all proceedings and actions, the government must have as its paramount priority the protection of the best interests of the child.

The Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act of 2000 would ensure that children who are apprehended by the INS are treated humanely and appropriately by transferring jurisdiction over the welfare of unaccompanied minors from the INS Detention and Deportation division to a newly created Office of Children Services within the INS.

This legislation would also centralize responsibility for the care and custody of unaccompanied children in a new Office of Children's Services. By doing so, the legislation would resolve the conflict of interest inherent in the current system—that is, the INS retains custody of children and is charged with their care while, at the same time, it seeks their deportation.

Under this bill, the Office of Children's Services would be required to establish standards for the custody, release, and detention of children, ensuring that children are housed in appropriate shelters or foster care rather than juvenile jails. In 1999, the INS held some 2,000 children in juvenile jails even though they had never committed a crime. Equally as important, the bill would require the Office to establish clear guidelines and uniformity for detention alternatives such as shelter care, foster care, and other child custody arrangements.

The bill would strengthen options for the permanent protection of alien children in the United States, including providing asylum or adjustment of status to those who qualify.

Finally, the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act would provide unaccompanied minors with access to legal counsel, who would ensure that the children appear at all immigration proceedings and assist them as the INS and immigration court considers their cases. The bill would also provide access to a guardian ad litem to ensure that they are properly placed in a safe environment. The guardian ad litem would also make sure that the child's attorney is, in fact, operating in his or her best interest.

Let me turn for a moment to the issue of access to counsel. Children, even more than adults, have immense difficulty tackling the complexities of the asylum system without the assistance of counsel. Despite this reality, most children in INS detention are unrepresented. Without legal representation, children are at risk of being returned to their home countries where they may face further human rights abuses.