

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 142

Whereas, The 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act mandated the addition of oxygenates in reformulated gasoline at a minimum of 2% of content by weight to reduce the concentration of various types of air contaminants, including ozone and carbon monoxide, in regions of the country exceeding National Air Quality Standards; and

Whereas, Methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE), the most commonly used gasoline oxygenate in the United States, is being detected with increasing frequency in surface and groundwater supplies and public and private water supply wells throughout the United States and Pennsylvania due to leaking underground petroleum storage tanks, spills and other accidental discharges; and

Whereas, Because MTBE is highly soluble in water, spills and leaks involving MTBE-laden gasoline are considerably more expensive and difficult to remediate than those involving conventional gasoline, and current wellhead techniques for treating gasoline-tainted water, such as air sparging and carbon filtration, are less effective in treating water contaminated by the MTBE-laden gasoline, resulting in increased treatment costs to water suppliers; and

Whereas, Several studies, including the May 1999 study on "The Ozone-Forming Potential of Reformulated Gasoline" by the National Research Council, have found that gasoline oxygenates contribute little to reducing ozone pollution and that the air quality benefits of oxygenates in reformulated gasoline are restricted to cars manufactured prior to 1989 and therefore are diminishing as older model vehicles are phased out; and

Whereas, A Blue Ribbon Panel of the United States Environmental Protection Agency recently called for the elimination of the Federal oxygenate requirement and for the reduction of the use of MTBE in gasoline because of the public health concerns associated with MTBE in water supplies; and

Whereas, The prescriptive requirements in the Clean Air Act Amendments for oxygenate content restrict the Commonwealth's ability to address groundwater contamination and air quality issues; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President and Congress of the United States to repeal the oxygenate content requirements in the Clean Air Act, and to encourage reliance instead upon clean-burning, nonoxygenate fuel formulations that meet the air quality standards established in the Clean Air Act and provide reductions of ozone and airborne toxic pollutants equivalent to or greater than gasoline oxygenates; and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress; from Pennsylvania.

POM-485. A resolution adopted by the Township of Dennis, County of Cape May, New Jersey relative to the use of the Mud Dump site as a disposal area for contaminated dredge materials in the Atlantic Ocean; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

## 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. WARNER (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. INHOPE, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BOND, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HELMS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. MACK, Mr. REED, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. KERRY, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 2486. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve access to benefits under the TRICARE program; to extend and improve certain demonstration programs under the Defense Health Program; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2487. A bill to authorize appropriations for Fiscal Year 2001 for certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 2488. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain ion-exchange resin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 2489. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain ion-exchange resin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 2490. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain ion-exchange resin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COCHRAN:

S. 2491. A bill to authorize the Librarian of Congress to establish certain programs and activities of the Library of Congress as programs to be administered through a revolving fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. DOMENICI:

S. 2492. A bill to expand and enhance United States efforts in the Russian nuclear complex to expedite the containment of nuclear expertise that presents a proliferation threat, and for other purposes; 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:

S. Res. 301. A resolution designating August 16, 2000, as "National Airborne Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. INHOPE, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BOND, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HELMS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. MACK, Mr. REED, Mr. CLELAND, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 2486. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve access to benefits under the TRICARE program; to extend and improve certain demonstration programs under the De-

fense Health Program; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

## MILITARY HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2000

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce an enhanced piece of legislation the Military Medical Improvement Act of 2000. This revised legislative initiative incorporates the major concerns of beneficiaries I heard pertaining to the original legislation.

S. 2087, the Military Health Care Improvement Act of 2000 that I introduced on February 23, 2000, contains a provision authorizing a mail order pharmacy benefit for military retirees, dependents and survivors over age 64. Since S. 2087 was introduced, the Personnel Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee has conducted a hearing on medical issues where beneficiary representatives conveyed the importance of a comprehensive pharmacy benefit to committee members. I chaired sessions of the Senate Armed Services Committee where senior Department of Defense officials, both uniformed and civilian, addressed the importance of the medical benefit and meeting health care commitments to retirees as recruiting and retention issues.

Due to my grave concern about meeting the needs of military beneficiaries, and the importance of health care as a component of the compensation package, I have continued to solicit views of military beneficiaries on medical benefits. I recently conducted a town hall meeting in Norfolk, Virginia, devoted exclusively to military health care issues. A recurring concern mentioned by the participants was that the pharmacy provision of S. 2087 did not include a retail pharmacy component. I have come to the conclusion that it is critical that we expand access to a retail benefit for all military beneficiaries.

The legislation I am introducing today responds to the concerns I have heard from military beneficiaries and includes a modified pharmacy provision that expands the mail order pharmacy program to all military beneficiaries with no enrollment fee or deductible and that would provide access to retail pharmacy networks for all military beneficiaries, including those eligible for Medicare. This benefit would mirror the current Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) pharmacy benefit. The BRAC pharmacy benefit is currently restricted to only a few Medicare-eligible military retirees. The modified pharmacy benefit I am suggesting would, in effect, extend the BRAC benefit to all Medicare-eligible beneficiaries of the military health care system.

Based on lower than expected costs associated with this enhanced provision, and my recent amendment to the budget resolution which allows for