

genetic services by an individual or a family member of such individual).”.

**SEC. 204. APPLICATION OF GENETIC NON-DISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENTS TO MEDIGAP PLANS.**

(a) **NONDISCRIMINATION.**—Section 1882(s)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ss(s)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(E) Each issuer of a medicare supplemental policy, and each such policy offered by such an issuer, shall comply with the requirements under section 122 of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to each issuer of a medicare supplemental policy and each such policy for policy years beginning after October 1, 2002.

(c) **TRANSITION PROVISIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services identifies a State as requiring a change to its statutes or regulations to conform its regulatory program to the amendment made by subsection (a), the State regulatory program shall not be considered to be out of compliance with the requirements of section 1882 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ss) due solely to failure to make such change until the date specified in paragraph (4).

(2) **NAIC STANDARDS.**—If, not later than June 30, 2002, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (in this subsection referred to as the “NAIC”) modifies its NAIC Model Regulation relating to section 1882 of the Social Security Act (referred to in such section as the 1991 NAIC Model Regulation, as subsequently modified) to conform to the amendment made by subsection (a), such revised regulation incorporating the modifications shall be considered to be the applicable NAIC model regulation (including the revised NAIC model regulation and the 1991 NAIC Model Regulation) for the purposes of such section.

(3) **SECRETARY STANDARDS.**—If the NAIC does not make the modifications described in paragraph (2) within the period specified in such paragraph, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, not later than October 1, 2002, make the modifications described in such paragraph and such revised regulation incorporating the modifications shall be considered to be the appropriate regulation for the purposes of such section.

(4) **DATE SPECIFIED.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), the date specified in this paragraph for a State is the earlier of—

(i) the date the State changes its statutes or regulations to conform its regulatory program to the changes made by this section; or

(ii) October 1, 2002.

(B) **ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION REQUIRED.**—In the case of a State which the Secretary identifies as—

(i) requiring State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) to conform its regulatory program to the amendment made by subsection (a); but

(ii) having a legislature which is not scheduled to meet in 2002 in a legislative session in which such legislation may be considered, the date specified in this paragraph is the first day of the first calendar quarter beginning after the close of the first legislative session of the State legislature that begins on or after July 1, 2002. For purposes of the previous sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year of such session shall be deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

**SEC. 205. APPLICATION TO GROUP HEALTH PLANS AND GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 100 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by redesignating subchapter C as subchapter D; and

(2) by inserting after subchapter B the following:

**“SUBCHAPTER C—PATIENT PROTECTION STANDARDS**

**“SEC. 9821. PATIENT PROTECTION STANDARDS.**

“Each group health plan shall comply with patient protection requirements under title I of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act, and each health insurance issuer shall comply with patient protection requirements under such title with respect to group health insurance coverage it offers, and such requirements shall be deemed to be incorporated into this section.”.

(b) **APPLICATION TO EMPLOYERS WITH FEWER THAN 2 EMPLOYEES.**—Section 9831(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “this chapter” and inserting “this chapter (other than section 9821, with respect to the application of section 122 of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act)”.

After section 301, insert the following:

**SEC. 301A. APPLICATION TO EMPLOYERS WITH FEWER THAN 2 EMPLOYEES.**

Section 732(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1191a(a)) is amended by striking “section 711” and inserting “sections 711 and 714(a) (with respect to the application of section 122 of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act)”.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 28, 2001. The purpose of this hearing will be to discuss the next Federal farm bill.

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

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 28, 2001, at 2:30 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on the fiscal year 2002 budget amendment, in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 2002 and the Future Years Defense Program.

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

**COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during these session of the Senate on June 28, 2001, to conduct a hearing on “The Reauthorization of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act.”

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

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be au-

thorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 28 at 9:30 a.m. to conduct an oversight hearing. The committee will receive testimony on science and technology studies on climate change.

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

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 28, 2001, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing titled, “Zimbabwe’s Political and Economic Crisis” as follows:

**WITNESSES**

Panel 1: Walter H. Kansteiner, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Department of State, Washington, DC.

Panel 2: Professor Robert Rotberg, President, World Peace Foundation, Cambridge, MA.

Yves Sorokobi, Africa Director, Committee to Protect Journalists, New York, NY.

Mr. John Prendergast, International Crisis Group, Washington, DC.

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

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet Thursday, June 28, 2001, at 9:30 am for a hearing regarding “The Impact of Electric Industry Restructuring on System Reliability.”

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

**COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 28, 2001, at 10 a.m., to receive testimony from Members of the House of Representatives on election reform.

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

**COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 28, 2001, at 10 a.m., in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building, for a hearing on pending veterans’ benefits legislation as follows:

S. 1090: Cost-of-living adjustment for veterans’ benefits. Sponsor: Senator ROCKEFELLER.

S. 1089: U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) succession plan to address judges retiring in 2004/2005. Repeals the NOD as a jurisdictional threshold for appearing before the CAVC. Sponsor: Senator ROCKEFELLER.

S. 1091: (1) Eliminates the 30-year limit on manifestation from time of exposure for the presumption of service connection for Agent Orange-related respiratory cancer; (2) Restores a VA presumption, eliminated by a Court decision, that in-country Vietnam veterans were exposed to Agent Orange; (3) tasks the National Academy of Sciences to continue reporting on Agent Orange and its association with

disease for 10 more years (5 reports).  
Sponsor: Senator ROCKEFELLER.

S. 1063: CAVC-requested bill pertaining to administrative matters.  
Sponsor: Senator ROCKEFELLER.

S. 1088. Creates flexibility for MGIB to pay for high tech/short-term courses. Sponsor: Senator ROCKEFELLER.

S. 1093: Miscellaneous veterans' benefits provisions (based on informal input from VA):

#### COMPENSATION

a. Eliminate compensation for incarcerated persons—We previously enacted legislation to reduce compensation to incarcerated veterans to the equivalent of 10 percent, disability compensation (or, if they only received 10 percent, to the equivalent of 5 percent). Veterans that were already incarcerated were grandfathered out of the reduction. This change would stop only future payments to these veterans.

b. Reduce benefits for fugitive felons—Currently, veterans who are fugitive from justice are eligible to receive VA benefits. This would bar them from receiving benefits while a fugitive (fleeing prosecution, confinement for a felony, or in violation of a condition of probation or parole).

c. Duty to assist (technical corrections).

#### VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Eliminate the cap of 500 veteran participants in Voc Rehab's "Independent Living" program. The cap was set when the program was initially piloted. While the time limit on the program was repealed, the cap on participants was not. VA has not turned any one away from the program, but has been exceeding 500 veterans in the last couple of years. The goal of the program is to assist a veteran who is too disabled to retrain for employment to achieve and maintain a stated independent living outcome.

#### LOAN GUARANTY

Increase the home loan guaranty amount to \$63,175 from the current \$50,750, to keep pace with FHA (and the even higher Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac). The VA amount has not been increased since 1994.

#### EDUCATION

Overtake court decision eliminating the delimiting date for use of chapter 35 educational benefits by surviving spouses. The spouse would be allowed to choose the beginning date of the eligibility period. It could be any date between the effective date of the rating of the veteran's service-connected disability as permanently and totally disabling, and the date VA notified the veteran of this fact. A 10-year period would run from the date the spouse chose.

#### PENSION

a. Excludes life insurance proceeds from countable income for determination of nonservice-connected death pension eligibility for poor surviving spouses of wartime veterans. Currently, counting life insurance could make the spouse ineligible for a year. Modifies effective date of beginning benefits.

b. Modifies the requirement for pensioners to report changes in income at the end of the month, to the end of the year.

S. 131: To increase the rate of the basic benefit of MGIB to the average cost of tuition next fiscal year, and then modify the annual COLA to be pegged to educational inflation. Sponsor: Senator JOHNSON.

S. 228: To make permanent the Native American veterans housing loan program. The program is set to expire in 2002. Sponsor: Senator AKAKA.

S. 409: To clarify the standards for compensation for Persian Gulf veterans suffering from certain undiagnosed illnesses and to extend Persian Gulf compensation presumption. Sponsor: Senator HUTCHISON.

S. 457: To establish a presumption of service connection for certain veterans with hepatitis C. Sponsor: Senator SNOWE.

S. 662: To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish headstones or markers for marked graves of, or to otherwise commemorate, certain individuals if buried after November 1, 1990. Sponsor: Senator DODD.

S. 781: To extend the authority for housing loan guaranties for members of the Selected Reserve now set to expire in 2007. Sponsor: Senator AKAKA.

S. 912: To increase burial benefits for veterans from \$300 to \$1,135 and from \$1,500 to \$3,713, and plot allowances from \$150 to \$670. Also, to index future increases to the CPI. Sponsor: Senator MIKULSKI.

S. 937: To permit the relevant Secretary to transfer entitlement to MGIB educational assistance from members of the Armed Forces to their dependents for up to 18 months of benefits, and allow them to receive the payment as an accelerated payment for a term/semester (solely upon the discretion of the Secretary). Sponsor: Senator CLELAND.

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

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet on Thursday, June 28, 2001, from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. in Dirksen 226 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND MERCHANT MARINE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on June 28, 2001, at 2:30 p.m., on Surface Transportation Board Rail Merger Rules.

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

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1077

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 1 p.m., Monday, July 9, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 76, S. 1077,

the supplemental appropriations bill; that the bill be considered under the following limitations: that the only first-degree amendments in order other than a managers' amendment be the following list which is at the desk; that all listed amendments must be offered by 6 p.m. Monday, July 9, with the exception of the managers' amendment; that the managers or designees be authorized to offer any listed first-degree amendment in order for that amendment to qualify under the deadline; that any listed first-degree amendment be subject to relevant second-degree amendments; that any time limitation for debate on a first-degree amendment specified in this agreement then a second-degree amendment to that amendment would be accorded the same time limit; further, that upon disposition of the above amendments, the bill be advanced to third reading and the Senate then proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 77, H.R. 2216; that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 1077, as amended, be inserted in lieu thereof; that the bill be advanced to third reading and the Senate then vote on passage of the bill, with no intervening action or debate; finally, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1077 be returned to the calendar.

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

The list of amendments is as follows:

Biden amendment re: Relevant,  
Bond amendment re: Department of Defense,  
Bond amendment re: Corp of Engineers,  
Boxer amendment re: Sudden Oak Death,  
Boxer amendment re: Path 15,  
Byrd amendment re: Relevant,  
Byrd amendment re: Relevant to any on list,  
Cleland amendment re: B-1 bomber transportation,  
Conrad amendment re: Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation,  
Conrad amendment re: Devil's Lake,  
Conrad amendment re: Relevant,  
Craig amendment re: Relevant,  
Daschle amendment re: Relevant,  
Daschle amendment re: Relevant to any on list,  
Feingold amendment re: Relevant,  
Feingold amendment re: Klamath Basin,  
Feinstein amendment re: Klamath Basin,  
Hutchinson (AR) amendment re: AR ice storms,  
Inouye amendment re: Relevant,  
Johnson amendment re: Relevant,  
Lott amendment re: Relevant,  
Lott amendment re: Relevant to any on list,  
McCain amendment re: Defense,  
McCain amendment re: Dept. of Defense with a time limit of 2 hours equally divided and controlled,  
Nickles amendment re: Relevant,  
Miller amendment re: B-1 bomber transportation,  
Reid (NV) amendment re: Relevant,  
Reid (NV) amendment re: Relevant to any on list,  
Roberts amendment re: B-1 bombers,  
Schumer amendment re: IRS,  
Schumer amendment re: Relevant,  
(4) Smith (OR) amendment re: Klamath Falls,  
Stevens amendment re: Relevant,