

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF MONGOLIA ON EMBRACING DEMOCRACY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 516, Senate Resolution 276.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 276) congratulating the people of Mongolia on embracing democracy in Mongolia through their participation in the parliamentary elections held on June 30, 1996.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to, en bloc, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 276) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 276

Whereas Mongolia conducted elections on June 30, 1996, for its unicameral national parliament, the Great Hural;

Whereas Mongolian voters cast their ballots in a peaceful and orderly fashion at 1590 polling places, choosing from among 351 candidates representing 11 different parties and coalitions;

Whereas the primary issues facing Mongolian voters were the scope and pace of continued democratization and economic liberalization;

Whereas the former Communist Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) suffered a dramatic and unexpected loss at the polls, and the Democratic Union Coalition won majority control of the Great Hural;

Whereas the Democratic Union Coalition espoused a policy of strengthening democratic institutions, implementing free market economic reforms, and strengthening the independence of the judiciary;

Whereas voter turnout exceeded 87 percent according to preliminary reports;

Whereas an international election observation team led by former Secretary of State James A. Baker traveled to nine different areas of Mongolia to observe pre-election day preparations and Mongolian citizens voting on election day; and

Whereas the United States election observers judged the election to be free, peaceful, and fair, with the results respected by all sides: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate hereby congratulates the people of Mongolia for—

(1) overwhelmingly embracing democracy through their participation in the June 30, 1996, elections for the national parliament, the Great Hural;

(2) conducting free, fair, and credible elections;

(3) continuing to build on the progress of the past and moving further away from their previous dependence on a communist system; and

(4) serving as an example to the peoples of East Asia who seek further democratization of their countries.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President with the request that he further transmit such copy to the Government of Mongolia.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 1965

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate action yesterday on S. 1972 be vitiated.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 5203

(Purpose: To make a technical amendment)

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a technical amendment, No. 5203, which is at the desk be considered and agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 5203) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 2, line 13, insert "or near" after "on".

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I wish to thank my colleagues for voting to adopt S. 1972, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act. S. 1972 makes technical corrections to the Act to clarify and improve the provisions relating to older native Americans.

Mr. President, many older native Americans have benefited from programs authorized under the Older Americans Act. Indian tribes have provided much needed home-based care, meals and services to elderly tribal members living on Indian reservations and in nearby communities. In most cases, older native Americans live in remote and isolated communities with little or no access to a grocery store, telephone, health care and other important services. Through the Older Americans Act, nutrition and support services can be provided to older Native Americans in their homes and communities on a daily basis.

However, many of these services can be strengthened to ensure that Indian tribes are able to tailor nutritional and supportive programs to the cultural and geographic characteristics of their communities. Often, employment and nutrition programs are difficult to administer in Indian country because of the remoteness of the service area and the unique character of Indian cultures. The changes in S. 1972 will ensure that Indian tribes and tribal organizations serving native American elders will be afforded maximum flexibility in administering employment

and nutrition programs to ensure that they are appropriate to the unique characteristics of the Indian communities.

Mr. President, I have proposed a minor technical change to the bill as it was reported in the Committee on Indian Affairs. This amendment to section 2 of the bill is necessary to clarify that the proposed change to the definition of "reservation" will not alter any existing eligibility for Indians living near an Indian reservation.

Mr. President, I wish to express my appreciation to Senators INOUE and STEVENS, who joined me in sponsoring this legislation and my colleagues in the Senate who voted to pass S. 1972. This act will bring us closer to meeting the goals of the Older Americans Act to ensure that older native Americans will continue to benefit from the services provided by the act.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 1972), as amended, was deemed read the third time and passed as follows:

S. 1972

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Older Americans Indian Technical Amendments Act".

SEC. 2. INDIAN EMPLOYMENT; DEFINITION OF INDIAN RESERVATION.

Section 502(b)(1)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3056(b)(1)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

"(B)(i) will provide employment for eligible individuals in the community in which such individuals reside, or in nearby communities; or

"(ii) if such project is carried out by a tribal organization that enters into an agreement under subsection (b) or receives assistance from a State that enters into such an agreement, will provide employment for such individuals who are Indians residing on or near an Indian reservation, as the term is defined in section 2601(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501(2))."

SEC. 3. POPULATION STATISTICS DEVELOPMENT.

Section 614(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3057e(b)) is amended by striking "certification" and inserting "approval".

SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 614(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3057e(c)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(1)" after "(c)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) The Assistant Secretary shall provide waivers and exemptions of the reporting requirements of subsection (a)(3) for applicants that serve Indian populations in geographically isolated areas, or applicants that serve small Indian populations, where the small scale of the project, the nature of the applicant, or other factors make the reporting requirements unreasonable under the circumstances. The Assistant Secretary shall consult with such applicants in establishing appropriate waivers and exemptions."

SEC. 5. EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR NUTRITION SERVICES.

Section 614(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3057e(c)), as amended by section 4, is further