

Whereas the first draft of the proposed legislation has already passed its first reading in the State Duma;

Whereas President Putin has indicated his desire for changes in the first draft that would "correspond more closely to the principles according to which civil society functions"; and

Whereas Russia's destiny and the interests of her people lie in her assumption of her rightful place as a full and equal member of the international community of democracies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate. That the Senate—

(1) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to withdraw the first draft of the proposed legislation that would have the effect of severely restricting the establishment, operations, and activities of domestic, international, and foreign nongovernmental organizations in the Russian Federation, or to modify the proposed legislation to entirely remove these restrictions; and

(2) in the event that the first draft of the proposed legislation is not withdrawn, urges the State Duma and the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly to modify the legislation to ensure the unobstructed establishment and free and autonomous operations and activities of such nongovernmental organizations in accordance with the practices universally adopted by democracies, including the provisions regarding foreign assistance.

REDUCING CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS IN THE REPRESENTATION OF INDIAN TRIBES ACT OF 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of Calendar No. 329, S. 1312.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1312) to amend a provision relating to employees of the United States assigned to, or employed by, an Indian tribe, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the McCain amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The amendment (No. 2687) was agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 2687

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Reducing Conflicts of Interests in the Representation of Indian Tribes Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS.

Section 104 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450i) is amended by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

"(j) ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS.—

"(1) DEFINITION OF TRIBAL EMPLOYEE.—In this subsection, the term 'tribal employee', with respect to an Indian tribal government, means an individual acting under the day-to-day control or supervision of the Indian tribal government, unaffected by the control or

supervision of any independent contractor, agency or organization, or intervening sovereignty.

"(2) RIGHTS OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES.—Notwithstanding sections 205 and 207 of title 18, United States Code, an officer or employee of the United States assigned to an Indian tribe under section 3372 of title 5, United States Code, or section 2072 of the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 48), or an individual that was formerly an officer or employee of the United States and who is a tribal employee or an elected or appointed official of an Indian tribe carrying out an official duty of the tribal employee or official may communicate with and appear before any department, agency, court, or commission on behalf of the Indian tribe on any matter, including any matter in which the United States is a party or has a direct and substantial interest.

"(3) NOTIFICATION OF INVOLVEMENT IN PENDING MATTER.—An officer, employee, or former officer or employee described in paragraph (2) shall submit to the head of each appropriate department, agency, court, or commission, in writing, a notification of any personal and substantial involvement the officer, employee, or former officer or employee had as an officer or employee of the United States with respect to the pending matter."

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The effective date of the amendment made by this Act shall be the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

The bill, as amended, was read the third time and passed.

PUBLIC LAW 107-153 MODIFICATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 318, S. 1892.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1892) to amend Public Law 107-153 to modify a certain date.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 2690) was agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 2690

On page 1, line 6, strike "2005" and insert "2000".

The bill (S. 1892), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2892

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2892) to amend section 255 of the National Housing Act to remove the limitation on the number of reverse mortgages that may be insured under the FHA mortgage insurance program for such mortgages.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

ORDERS FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 17. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow we will return to session. As I stated this morning, we are waiting for additional legislative items to come from the House. The House may vote on the Defense authorization conference report later this evening or tomorrow morning. I am unaware of anyone who has requested a rollcall vote on that conference report and, therefore, we expect to debate that during tomorrow's session if that measure is received.

We also have a number of nominations we have been working on over the last several days. We expect to get those wrapped up tomorrow. At this point, we anticipate acting on those nominations without the need for rollcall votes.

Having said that, we will be in session working on the important business that remains. At this juncture, after discussion with the Democratic leader, we do not anticipate a need for rollcall votes tomorrow. I want to say that in a very careful way because we have so much happening right now and, as I said, we will be working through much of the night, and we want to continue to move forward on measures. Senators have been patient. We have said for some time that we would be in this weekend, Saturday and in all likelihood Sunday as well, working through our final business.

Tomorrow, I will continue to work with the Democratic leader to clear as much as we possibly can by unanimous consent. We also expect the Defense appropriations conference report to be ready at some point this weekend, and we will turn to that measure just as