

decisions to which section 7252(a) of this title may apply or with other proceedings before the Court.

"(2) An individual referred to in paragraph (1) is any veteran or other person who—

"(A) is or seeks to be a party to an action before the Court; and

"(B) cannot, as determined by the Court or the entity concerned, afford the costs of legal advice and representation in connection with that action.

"(3) Assistance, services, and activities under a program described in this subsection may include the following for individuals described in paragraph (2) in connection with proceedings before the Court:

"(A) Financial assistance to defray the expenses of legal advice or representation (other than payment of attorney fees) by attorneys, clinical law programs of law schools, and veterans service organizations.

"(B) Case screening and referral services for purposes of referring cases to pro bono attorneys and such programs and organizations.

"(C) Education and training of attorneys and other legal personnel who may appear before the Court by attorneys and such programs and organizations.

"(D) Encouragement and facilitation of the pro bono representation by attorneys and such programs and organizations.

"(4) A legal assistance entity that receives financial assistance described in subsection (a) to carry out a program under this subsection shall make such contributions (including in-kind contributions) to the program as the nonprofit organization or the Court, as the case may be, shall specify when providing the assistance.

"(5) A legal assistance entity that receives financial assistance under subsection (a) to carry out a program described in this subsection may not require or request the payment of a charge or fee in connection with the program by or on behalf of any individual described in paragraph (2).

"(c)(1) The Court may, out of the funds appropriated to the Court for such purpose, provide funds to a nonprofit organization described in subsection (a)(1), in advance or by way of reimbursement, to cover some or all of the administrative costs of the organization in providing financial assistance to legal assistance entities carrying out programs described in subsection (b).

"(2) Funds shall be provided under this subsection pursuant to a written agreement entered into by the Court and the nonprofit organization receiving the funds.

"(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a nonprofit organization may—

"(1) accept funds, in advance or by way of reimbursement, from the Court under subsection (a)(1) in order to provide the financial assistance referred to in that subsection;

"(2) provide financial assistance by grant or contract to legal assistance entities under this section for purposes of permitting such entities to carry out programs described in subsection (b);

"(3) administer any such grant or contract; and

"(4) accept funds, in advance or by way of reimbursement, from the Court under subsection (c) in order to cover the administrative costs referred to in that subsection.

"(e)(1) Not later than February 1 each year, the Court shall submit to Congress a report on the funds and financial assistance provided under this section during the preceding fiscal year. Based on the data provided the Court by entities receiving such funds and assistance, each report shall—

"(A) set forth the amount, if any, of funds provided to nonprofit organizations under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) during the fiscal year covered by the report;

"(B) set forth the amount, if any, of financial assistance provided to legal assistance entities pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (a) or under paragraph (2) of that subsection during that fiscal year;

"(C) set forth the amount, if any, of funds provided to nonprofit organizations under subsection (c) during that fiscal year; and

"(D) describe the programs carried out under this section during that fiscal year.

"(2) The Court may require that the nonprofit organization and legal assistance entities to which funds or financial assistance are provided under this section provide the Court with such data on the programs carried out under this section as the Court determines necessary to prepare a report under this subsection.

"(g) For the purposes of this section:

"(1) The term 'legal assistance entity' means a not-for-profit organization or veterans service organization capable of providing legal assistance to persons with respect to matters before the Court.

"(2) The term 'Legal Services Corporation' means the corporation established under section 1003(a) of the Legal Services Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 2996b(a)).

"(3) The term 'nonprofit organization' means the Legal Services Corporation or any other similar not-for-profit organization that is involved with the provision of legal assistance to persons unable to afford such assistance.

"(4) The term 'veterans service organization' means an organization referred to in section 5902(a)(1) of this title, including an organization approved by the Secretary under that section."

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7286 the following new item:

"7287. Legal assistance for financially needy veterans in Court proceedings; use of funds for assistance."•

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 304

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 304, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the transportation fuels tax applicable to commercial aviation.

S. 833

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. SMITH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 833, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to more accurately codify the depreciable life of semiconductor manufacturing equipment.

S. 837

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Illinois [Mr. SIMON], and the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] were added as cosponsors of S. 837, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of James Madison.

S. 957

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the names of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], and the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] were added as cosponsors of S. 957, a bill to terminate the Office of the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service.

S. 959

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND] was added as a cosponsor of S. 959, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage capital formation through reductions in taxes on capital gains, and for other purposes.

S. 978

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 978, a bill to facilitate contributions to charitable organizations by codifying certain exemptions from the Federal securities laws, to clarify the inapplicability of antitrust laws to charitable gift annuities, and for other purposes.

S. 1000

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1000, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the depreciation rules which apply for regular tax purposes shall also apply for alternative minimum tax purposes, to allow a portion of the tentative minimum tax to be offset by the minimum tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1115

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1115, a bill to prohibit an award of costs, including attorney's fees, or injunctive relief, against a judicial officer for action taken in a judicial capacity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 149

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. WELLSTONE] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 149, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the recent announcement by the Republic of France that it intends to conduct a series of underground nuclear test explosions despite the current international moratorium on nuclear testing.

SENATE RESOLUTION 161—RELATIVE TO A DESK IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Mr. LOTT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 161

Resolved, That during the One hundred fourth Congress and each Congress thereafter, the desk located within the Senate Chamber and used by Senator Jefferson Davis shall, at the request of the senior Senator from the State of Mississippi, be assigned to such Senator, for use in carrying out his or her Senatorial duties during the Senator's term of office.