

1996-97. H.R. 3864 will allow GAO to make the best use of limited resources by modifying or terminating a number of activities and reporting requirements that are no longer central to their mission.

For example, section 102(d) of H.R. 3864 will eliminate a requirement placed on GAO by the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, also known as Gramm-Rudman. Gramm-Rudman currently requires GAO to report whether the final sequestration order from the Office of Management and Budget complies with the law. GAO has issued their report every year, even though in the 10 years since Gramm-Rudman has been enacted large-scale sequestrations have only been a concern in two of those years. H.R. 3864 would make this report contingent upon request of the Budget Committees, who no doubt would request such a report if the situation warranted.

Although section 102(d) is clearly within the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee, I will not object because the Budget Committee supports the change that is being made. I congratulate the chairman and ranking member of the Governmental Affairs Committee for producing a bill that will encourage efficiency in GAO operations and urge that the bill do pass.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3864) was deemed read the third time and passed.

PROVIDING FOR EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Energy Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3910 with regard to drought relief for Corpus Christi and, further, that the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3910) to provide emergency drought relief to the city of Corpus Christi, Texas, and the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority, Texas, and for other purposes.

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

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3910) was deemed read the third time and passed.

Mr. LOTT. Finally, I believe, Mr. President—not finally, others are coming. Agreements are wonderful. We keep reaching them right up to the end here.

AUTHORIZING PERIOD OF STAY FOR CERTAIN NURSES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2197, which was introduced earlier today by Senators FAIRCLOTH and MOSELEY-BRAUN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2197) to extend the authorized period of stay within the United States for certain nurses.

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. 5432

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Senators HATCH and KENNEDY have an amendment at the desk. I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT], for Mr. HATCH, for himself and Mr. KENNEDY, proposes an amendment numbered 5432.

The amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of the bill the following:

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Effective on September 30, 1996, subtitle A of title III of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 is amended—

(1) in section 306(c)(1), by striking “to all final” and all that follows through “Act and” and inserting “as provided under section 309, except that”;

(2) in section 309(c)(1), by striking “as of” and inserting “before”; and

(3) in section 309(c)(4), by striking “described in paragraph (1)”.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered and agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 5432) was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 2197), as amended, was deemed read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2197

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZED PERIOD OF STAY FOR CERTAIN NURSES.

(a) ALIENS WHO PREVIOUSLY ENTERED THE UNITED STATES PURSUANT TO AN H-1A VISA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the authorized period of stay in the United States of any nonimmigrant described in paragraph (2) is hereby extended through September 30, 1997.

(2) NONIMMIGRANT DESCRIBED.—A nonimmigrant described in this paragraph is a nonimmigrant—

(A) who entered the United States as a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

(B) who was within the United States on or after September 1, 1995, and who is within the United States on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(C) whose period of authorized stay has expired or would expire before September 30, 1997 but for the provisions of this section.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to extend the validity of any visa issued to a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or to authorize the re-entry of any person outside the United States on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT.—A nonimmigrant whose authorized period of stay is extended by operation of this section shall not be eligible to change employers in accordance with section 214.2(h)(2)(i)(D) of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act).

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall issue regulations to carry out the provisions of this section.

(d) INTERIM TREATMENT.—A nonimmigrant whose authorized period of stay is extended by operation of this section, and the spouse and child of such nonimmigrant, shall be considered as having continued to maintain lawful status as a nonimmigrant through September 30, 1997.

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(1) in section 306(c)(1), by striking “to all final” and all that follows through “Act and” and inserting “as provided under section 309, except that”;

(2) in section 309(c)(1), by striking “as of” and inserting “before”; and

(3) in section 309(c)(4), by striking “described in paragraph (1)”.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, today the Senate passed a bill which I cosponsored with my colleague from Illinois, Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN. It is designed to address a serious problem facing health care providers and patients in rural and inner city areas. Specifically, the legislation provides a 1-year visa extension for foreign nurses under the expired H-1A Program. It is supported by the American Nurses Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Health Care Association, and the American Business Council for Fair Immigration Reform.

In 1989, Congress passed the Immigrant Nursing Relief Act which created the H-1A Visa Program to address a nationwide nursing shortage which existed at that time. The H-1A Visa Program expired in September 1995. As a result, many rural and inner city hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities will lose the valuable services of foreign nurses who enable