

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

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO FILE LEGISLATIVE MATTERS ON MARCH 26, 1999

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that committees have from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Friday, March 26, in order to file legislative matters.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed immediately to executive session to consider all nominations reported by the Armed Services Committee today.

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

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations appear at this point in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations, considered and confirmed, en bloc, are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Rose Eilene Gottemoeller, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Non-Proliferation and National Security).

The above nomination was approved subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Eugene L. Tattini, 0000.

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Harold L. Timboe, 0000.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. William C. Jones, Jr., 0000.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael V. Hayden, 0000.

IN THE ARMY

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the

Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Reginald A. Centracchio, 0000.

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Edward J. Fahy, Jr., 0000.

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (1h) Daniel R. Bowler, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) John E. Boyington, Jr., 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) John V. Chenevey, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) Albert T. Church, III, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) John P. Davis, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) John B. Foley, III, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) Veronica A. Froman, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) Alfred G. Harms, Jr., 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) John M. Johnson, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) Timothy J. Keating, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) Roland B. Knapp, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) Timothy W. LaFleur, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) James W. Metzger, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) Richard J. Naughton, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) John B. Padgett, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) Kathleen K. Paige, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) David P. Polatty, III, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) Ronald A. Route, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) Steven G. Smith, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) Ralph E. Suggs, 0000.
Rear Adm. (1h) Paul F. Sullivan, 0000.

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment as a Permanent Professor of the United States Military Academy in the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 4333 (b):

To be colonel

Patrick Finnegan, 0000.

Army nominations beginning CHRISTOPHER D. LATCHFORD, and ending JAMES E. BRAMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 8, 1999.

Army nominations beginning LEE G. KENNARD, and ending MICHAEL E. THOMPSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 8, 1999.

Army nominations beginning WESLEY D. COLLIER, and ending THOMAS L. MUSSELMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 8, 1999.

Army nominations beginning DAVID E. BELL, and ending HOWARD LOCKWOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 8, 1999.

Army nominations beginning *JAN E. ALDYKIEWICZ, and ending *LOUIS P. YOB, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 8, 1999.

Army nominations beginning TIMOTHY K. ADAMS, and ending DERICK B. ZIEGLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 8, 1999.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Marine Corps under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

Stanley A. Packard, 0000.

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Marine Corps under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major

Todd D. Bjorklund, 0000.

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Naval Reserve under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be captain

Tarek A. Elbeshbeshy, 0000.

Navy nominations beginning GLEN C. CRAWFORD, and ending LEONARD G. ROSS, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 8, 1999.

Navy nominations beginning STEVEN W. ALLEN, and ending DANIEL C. WYATT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 8, 1999.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 755

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I understand that S. 755, which was introduced earlier by Senator HATCH and others, is at the desk, and I ask that it be read the first time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

A bill (S. 755) to extend the period for compliance with certain ethical standards of Federal prosecutors.

Mr. ENZI. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 754

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I understand that bill No. S. 754 introduced earlier today by Senator EDWARDS is at the desk and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

A bill (S. 754) to designate the Federal building located at 310 New Bern Avenue in Raleigh, North Carolina as the "Terry Sanford Federal Building."

Mr. ENZI. I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

RECONSTITUTING THE SENATE ARMS CONTROL OBSERVER GROUP AS THE SENATE NATIONAL SECURITY WORKING GROUP

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 75, submitted earlier today by Senator LOTT.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

A resolution (S. Res. 75) reconstituting the Senate Arms Control Observer Group as the Senate National Security Working Group in revising the authority of the group.

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. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 75) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 75

Resolved, That Senate Resolution 105 of the One Hundred First Congress, agreed to April 13, 1989, as amended by Senate Resolution 149 of the One Hundred Third Congress, agreed to October 5, 1993, is further amended as follows:

(1) In subsection (a) of the first section, by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) the Senate Arms Control Observer Group, which was previously constituted and authorized by the authority described in paragraph (2), is hereby reconstituted and reauthorized as the Senate National Security Working Group (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the ‘Working Group’).”

(2) By striking “Observer Group” each place it appears in the resolution, except paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of the first section, and inserting “Working Group”.

(3) By striking “Group” in the second sentence of section 3(a) and inserting “Working Group”.

(4) By striking paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of the first section and inserting the following:

“(3)(A) The members of the Working Group shall act as official observers on the United States delegation to any negotiations, to which the United States is a party, on any of the following:

“(i) Reduction, limitation, or control of conventional weapons, weapons of mass destruction, or the means for delivery of any such weapons.

“(ii) Reduction, limitation, or control of missile defenses.

“(iii) Export controls.

“(B) In addition, the Working Group is encouraged to consult with legislators of foreign nations, including the members of the State Duma and Federal Council of the Russian Federation and, as appropriate, legislators of other foreign nations, regarding matters described in subparagraph (A).

“(C) The Working Group is not authorized to investigate matters relating to espionage or intelligence operations against the United States, counterintelligence operations and activities, or other intelligence matters within the jurisdiction of the Select Committee on Intelligence under Senate Resolution 400 of the Ninety-Fourth Congress, agreed to on May 19, 1976.”

(5) In paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of the first section—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “Five” in the matter preceding clause (i) and inserting “Seven”;

(ii) by striking “two” in clause (ii) and inserting “three”; and

(iii) by striking “two” in clause (iii) and inserting “three”;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Six” and inserting “Five”; and

(C) in subparagraph (D), by striking “Seven” and inserting “Six”.

(6) In section 2(b)(3), by striking “five”.

(7) In the second sentence of section 3(a)—

(A) by striking “\$380,000” and inserting “\$500,000”; and

(B) by striking “except that not more than” and inserting “of which not more than”.

(8) By striking section 4.

(9) By amending the title to read as follows: “Resolution reconstituting the Senate Arms Control Observer Group as the Senate National Security Working Group, and revising the authority of the Group.”

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE MICROLOAN PROGRAM

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 440, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 440) to make technical corrections in the Microloan Program.

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. KERRY. Mr. President, tonight the Senate will vote on H.R. 440, the Microloan Program Technical Corrections Act of 1999. I urge my colleagues to support this Act which, including my amendment, makes important changes to the Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Microloan program. It revises the loan loss reserve requirement for microlenders and makes changes that will more equitably distribute the microloan dollars available to each state. Ultimately, these changes will allow microlenders and intermediaries to make more loans and offer more technical assistance to our nation’s small businesses.

Most of my colleagues know that microloans and technical assistance are effective and powerful economic development tools because they voted to make the SBA’s microloan program a permanent part of the Agency’s lending programs in 1997.

Let’s look at the record since the SBA’s microloan pilot program was launched in 1991. It has provided more than 7,900 microloans, worth some \$80.3 million. For every microloan, 1.7 jobs are created. And, if a borrower was a welfare recipient, it is common for them to hire other welfare recipients. As the program was intended to do, a great percentage of microloans have gone to traditionally underserved groups, including 45 percent to women-owned businesses, 39 percent to minority-owned businesses and 11 percent to veteran-owned businesses. Voting for these measures will be a vote to make a good program better.

Specifically, this legislation revises the loan loss reserve requirement (a cash reserve to guarantee that the government is paid back if a loan defaults) for microlenders by setting a 15-percent ceiling and a 10-percent floor.

After a microloan intermediary has participated in the SBA Microloan program for five years and demonstrated its ability to maintain a healthy loan fund, it can request that SBA review and, when appropriate, reduce its loan loss reserve from 15 percent to a percentage based on its average loan loss rate for the five-year period. The proposed change would continue to protect the government’s interest in microloans as well as enhance the program by freeing up cash which microlenders could reprogram for more microloans or technical assistance to small business owners.

With my amendment, this legislation establishes a floor for the distribution of microloan funds available to the states, including the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. Depending on the amount of appropriations, the SBA must provide the lesser of either \$800,000 or the even division of the funds among the 55 states. For any monies that exceed \$44 million (\$800,000 x 55 states), the Administration has the discretion to decide how to distribute the microloan funds. The Administration also has the discretion to distribute any additional money that is left over at the beginning of the third quarter of a fiscal year.

Mr. President, in Massachusetts and across the country, microloans and technical assistance are working; assisting individuals with the tools to successfully start and manage their own business. I thank my colleagues for their past support of small business and urge them to vote for H.R. 440 as amended.

AMENDMENT NO. 248

(Purpose: To provide for the equitable allocation of appropriated amounts)

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI], for Mr. KERRY, proposes an amendment numbered 248.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 2, strike lines 7 through 20, and insert the following:

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) ALLOCATION.—

“(i) MINIMUM ALLOCATION.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, of the total amount of new loan funds made available for award under this subsection in each fiscal year, the Administration shall make available for award in each State (including the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa) an amount equal to the sum of—

“(I) the lesser of—

“(aa) \$800,000; or