

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-347. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to persons with disabilities; to the Committee on Finance.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

Whereas, In California and elsewhere, throughout a prolonged period of economic well-being and record low unemployment rates, recent national and California studies both have unaccepted findings that only one-third of adults with disabilities nationally and in California hold part-time or full-time jobs; and

Whereas, In these same studies, 75 percent of those not working stated they wanted to work; and

Whereas, The lack of access to private health insurance or the lack of continuing access to Medi-Cal or Medicare is the main obstacle individuals with significant disabilities face when working or returning to work; and

Whereas, The Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) work incentive rules have the potential to be effective but are underutilized, overly complex, and inconsistently administered. Social Security work incentives are used by only a small fraction of those eligible and often result in benefit by only a small fraction of those eligible and often result in benefit overpayments that must be repaid by the payee; and

Whereas, People with disabilities who are SSDI beneficiaries and SSI recipients have limited choice in employment services; and

Whereas, On January 28, 1999, Senator James M. Jeffords, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Senator William V. Roth, Jr., and Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, introduced Senate Bill 331, cited as the "Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999," to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in the Social Security Administration to provide these individuals with meaningful opportunities to work, and for other purposes; and

Whereas, On March 18, 1999, Representative Rick A. Lazio, Representative Michael Bilirakis, Representative Nancy L. Johnson, Representative Henry A. Waxman, Representative Tom Bliley, Jr., Representative Bob Matsui, Representative Fortney (Pete) Stark, Representative Brian Bilbray, Representative Steve Horn, of California and other states, introduced House Resolution 1180, cited as the "Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999," a measure similar to that introduced in the Senate; and

Whereas, The federal act, as introduced, would provide states with the option and incentive grants to set up programs to extend medicaid coverage to certain classes of SSDI and SSI beneficiaries who work, provide more choice of employment services, and establish a \$2 for \$1 earned income offset demonstration project for SSDI beneficiaries; and

Whereas, The federal act, as introduced, contains strong work incentive and planning provisions for individuals with disabilities who work or want to work, and provisions for community work incentive planners to

help individuals understand and use federal and state work incentive programs, Social Security specialists in work incentives at field offices to disseminate accurate information, protection and advocacy assistance when an individual's situation is negatively impacted as a result of work, and an advisory panel to counsel the Commissioner of Social Security and other federal agencies on employment and work incentive programs; and

Whereas, The interconnected provisions of the federal act work in concert to remove work barriers for people with disabilities; and

Whereas, California with disabilities want to live and work side by side with others in their communities and this goal can begin to happen with passage of this historic national legislation; and

Whereas, It is the California Legislature's strongest belief that people have the responsibility and right to meaningful employment opportunities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature affirms its endorsement of the federal "Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999," and urges the United States Congress to pass this act at once in order to meet the urgent demands of people with disabilities who work or want to work across the nation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Senate Majority Leader, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairpersons of the Senate Committees on Appropriations, Budget, and Finance, and to the Chairpersons of the House Committees on Appropriations, Budget, Commerce, and Ways and Means, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 974. A bill to establish a program to afford high school graduates from the District of Columbia the benefits of in-State tuition at State colleges and universities outside the District of Columbia, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-154).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1571. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for permanent eligibility of former members of the Selected Reserve for veterans housing loans; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. ROTH (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 1572. A bill to provide that children's sleepwear shall be manufactured in accordance with stricter flammability standards; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 1573. A bill to provide a reliable source of funding for State, local, and Federal ef-

orts to conserve land and water, preserve historic resources, improve environmental resources, protect fish and wildlife, and preserve open and green spaces; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. Res. 180. A resolution reauthorizing the John Heinz Senate Fellowship Program; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1571. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for permanent eligibility of former members of the Selected Reserve for veterans housing loans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PERMANENT ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RESERVE FOR VETERANS

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to legislation Senator AKAKA and I are introducing today. Entitled "Permanent Eligibility of Members of the Selected Reserve for Veterans Home Loans," this important legislation does not change existing law, but rather makes permanent a critical benefit for the National Guard and Reserve personnel.

Under current law, selected Reservists and National Guard personnel who complete six years of service are eligible for guaranteed home loans. This is a significant benefit that has been enjoyed by active duty personnel for many years and has proven to be very effective. In 1992, there was broad bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate for extending this benefit to the hard working men and women of the Reserves on a trial basis until 1999. Last year the program was extended to the year 2003. However, as we near that date, no potential recruit may participate in the program because it expires before they are able to complete six years of service. Therefore, we introduce this bill in an effort to make this benefit permanent.

Our Reserves and National Guard are being called upon more and more today. They are a crucial asset to our Nation's military, but the Reserves are not exempt from problems such as low recruiting that currently face our military. This legislation will give the Reserve Component an added recruitment incentive to offer potential service members.

Mr. President, more and more of our service members are taking the giant step of buying a home. Since the start of the VA Home Loan Program in 1992 through 1996, 33,224 loans have been guaranteed by the VA. Only 93 of those