

SEC. 402. EFFECTIVE DATES.**(a) TITLES I AND II.—**

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Except as provided under paragraph (2), titles I and II and the amendments made by such titles shall take effect 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) *IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT.*—Sections 207, 214, 215, and 216 shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) TITLES III AND IV.—Title III and this title shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to enhance the management and promotion of electronic Government services and processes by establishing an Office of Electronic Government within the Office of Management and Budget, and by establishing a broad framework of measures that require using Internet-based information technology to enhance citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes.”.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to pass S. 803, the E-Government Act of 2002. I believe that this bill will play an important role in making the Federal Government more responsive to our citizens.

The Internet would seem to be an ideal way for our constituents, especially those farthest from Washington, to get information and contact the government. However, many of our constituents complain that it is hard to access information from the government because the various agencies are not all prepared to deal with the advancements of the “digital age.” Meanwhile, some agencies are using the Internet in groundbreaking ways to improve their processes. In addition, the public has found that “e-government” programs have made interactions with the Federal Government more friendly and time-efficient. Today, it is easier for American citizens to find out about a government program, look up a regulation, apply for a grant, or download educational materials by using the Internet than by contacting a distant Federal agency.

This legislation has a number of provisions to promote innovative thinking in the field of “e-government,” while also assisting Federal departments and agencies in crossing into the 21st Century. The legislation establishes an Office of Electronic Government, headed by a Senate-confirmed administrator, within the Office of Management and Budget. This new administrator will sponsor a dialogue between government agencies, the public, and private and non-profit entities to spur creative new ideas for “e-government.” In addition the administrator will direct “e-government” initiatives, and oversee an interagency “e-government” fund to invest in cross-cutting projects with government-wide application. The bill also promotes the use of the Internet and other technologies to provide more information and better services to Americans through Internet strategies, such as the Federal “FirstGov” portal. Finally, the bill includes a number of provisions that should make it easier for the public to access information

about Federal scientific research, the Federal courts, and other areas of interest.

I would like especially to commend my friends, Senators LIEBERMAN and THOMPSON, the chairman and ranking member of the Government Affairs Committee, for their hard work on this legislation. This legislation addresses a complex issue that effects many agencies throughout government and its development required persistence and careful thought. The result of their efforts will improve Federal Government operations, and make the Government more responsive to the citizens we represent.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding Senators LIEBERMAN and THOMPSON have a substitute amendment that is at the desk. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered and agreed to; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the committee substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without intervening action or debate; that the title amendment be agreed to; that 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. 4172) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The committee amendment, in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 803), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

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

The title was amended so as to read: “A bill to enhance the management and promotion of electronic Government services and processes by establishing an Office of Electronic Government within the Office of Management and Budget, and by establishing a broad framework of measures that require using Internet-based information technology to enhance citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes.”.

ORDER FOR BILL TO BE
PRINTED—S. 2514

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 2514, as passed by the Senate, be printed.

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

NATIONAL FRAUD AGAINST SENIOR
CITIZENS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 454, S. Res. 281.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 281) designating the week beginning August 25, 2002, as “National Fraud Against Senior Citizens Awareness Week.”

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to, en bloc; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 281) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 281

Whereas perpetrators of mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud frequently target their schemes at senior citizens because seniors are often vulnerable and trusting people;

Whereas, as victims of such schemes, many senior citizens have been robbed of their hard-earned life savings and frequently pay an emotional cost, losing not only their money, but also their self-respect and dignity;

Whereas perpetrators of fraudulent schemes against American seniors often operate outside the United States, reaching their victims through the mail, telephone lines, and the Internet;

Whereas the Deceptive Mail Prevention and Enforcement Act increased the power of the United States Postal Service to protect consumers against those who use deceptive mailings featuring games of chance, sweepstakes, skill contests, and facsimile checks;

Whereas the Postal Inspection Service responded to 66,000 mail fraud complaints, arrested 1,691 mail fraud offenders, convicted 1,477 such offenders, and initiated 642 civil or administrative actions in fiscal year 2001;

Whereas mail fraud investigations by the Postal Inspection Service in fiscal year 2001 resulted in over \$1,200,000,000 in court-ordered and voluntary restitution payments;

Whereas the Postal Inspection Service, in an effort to curb cross-border fraud, is involved in 3 major fraud task forces with law enforcement officials in Canada, namely, Project Colt in Montreal, The Strategic Partnership in Toronto, and Project Emptor in Vancouver;

Whereas consumer awareness is the best protection from fraudulent schemes; and

Whereas it is vital to increase public awareness of the enormous impact that fraud has on senior citizens in the United States, and to educate the public, senior citizens, their families, and their caregivers about the signs of fraudulent activities and how to report suspected fraudulent activities to the appropriate authorities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning August 25, 2002, as “National Fraud Against Senior Citizens Awareness Week”; and

(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate activities and programs to—

(A) prevent the purveyors of fraud from victimizing senior citizens in the United States; and

(B) educate and inform the public, senior citizens, their families, and their caregivers