

services under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at a non-Department facility (as that term is defined in section 1701(4) of such title 38.

“(C) APPLICABLE PERCENT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘applicable percent’ means the weighted average percentage (based on claims under this section) by which the fiscal year 2001 VA Alaska fee schedule amount for physicians’ services exceeded the amount of payment for such services under this section that applied in Alaska in 2001.”

SA 1043. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements in the medicare program, to provide prescription coverage under the medicare program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 377, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

“(I) Section 1851(d) (relating to the provision of information to promote informed choice).

“(J) Section 1851(h) (relating to the approval of marketing material and application forms).

“(K) Section 1852(e)(4) (relating to treatment of accreditation).

“(L) Section 1857(i) (relating to Medicare+Choice program compatibility with employer or union group health plans).”

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I announce that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will conduct a hearing on June 26, 2003 in SR-328A at 9 a.m. The purpose of this meeting will be to review H.R. 1904, The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 24, 2003, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on “Bus Rapid Transit and Other Bus Service Innovations.”

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, June 24, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. on Reform of the USOC.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 24 at 10 a.m. in room SD-366. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to receive testimony on issues associated with changes in the relationship between the U.S. Department of Energy and the contractors operating its National Laboratories, other laboratories and sites.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 24, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on U.S. Relations With A Changing Europe: Differing Views on Technology Issues.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Tuesday, June 24, 2003, at 10 a.m. for a hearing entitled “Controlling the Costs of Federal Health Programs by Curing Diabetes: A Case Study.”

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Tuesday, June 24, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. in SDG 50.

Agenda

1. Indexing All Awards for Future Inflation: This amendment indexes claim award values to inflation.

2. Removing Collateral Source Offsets: This amendment ensures that more money will go to claimants by striking all existing collateral source offsets in the bill except for compensation from past settlements and judgments for the same asbestos-related injury.

3. Doubling the Statute of Limitations: This amendment doubles the statute of limitations from 2 to 4 years to allow more claimants access to the fund and to help alleviate the potential backlog of claims at the beginning of the Fund’s creation.

4. Coverage for Claimant Exposures on U.S. Flag Ships or While Working for U.S. Companies Abroad: This amendment broadens eligibility to include claims made by U.S. citizens exposed to asbestos while serving on any U.S. flagged or owned ship or exposed to asbestos while working for U.S. companies overseas.

5. Strengthening Enforcement of Contributions: This amendment strengthens the Administrator’s cause of action to enforce contributions by permitting the assessment of punitive damages for willful failure to pay.

6. Recoupment Authority for the Administrator: This amendment protects the funds available to pay claimants by permitting the Administrator to recover any financial hardship or inequity adjustment in future years if a company later becomes financially capable of paying its full allocation into the fund.

7. Criminal Penalties for Fraud or False Information: This amendment protects the integrity of the claims administration process by imposing criminal penalties for fraud and false statements made against the Fund.

8. Bankruptcy Certification: Requires the bankruptcy court to certify whether or not asbestos liabilities were the cause of the bankruptcy.

9. Congressional Oversight—Administrator Annual Reports: This amendment provides appropriate Congressional oversight by requiring the Administrator of the Asbestos Fund to submit an annual report on the functioning of the Fund to Congress.

Technical Amendments

10. Hatch Technical Amendment: Technical amendments to S. 1125.

Other Agreed Upon Amendments

11. Hatch Libby Amendment: Senator BAUCUS has agreed to this Amendment, which ensures that claimants from Libby, Montana will be compensated from this Fund and that their claims will be evaluated by the exceptions panel due to the unique nature of the asbestos there.

12. Hatch Asbestos Ban: This amendment prohibits the manufacture, distribution and importation of the consumer products to which asbestos is deliberately or knowingly added. The amendment also contains specific exemptions and authorizes the Administrator to hear and grant exemptions on a case by case basis.

13. Feinstein Second Degree to Hatch Asbestos Ban: This amendment adds certification requirements for the Government Use exemption, and authorizes the Administrator of the EPA to review the exemption for roofing cements and related products.

Medical Criteria Amendments

14. Hatch Medical Exceptions Panel Amendment: This panel will review claims which do not fit the criteria but may have an exceptional case to merit payment. Libby claims will automatically go through this panel.

15. Hatch Striking Product ID Amendment: (Leahy co-sponsor)—Drops requirements to identify particular asbestos product.

16. Hatch Latency Period Amendment: (Leahy co-sponsor)—Clarifies the 10-year latency period for all claims.

17. Hatch Medical Monitoring Amendment: Requires the administrator to notify qualifying claimants about medical monitoring options.

18. Hatch Doctor Evaluation Amendment: Requires physician to evaluate smoking and exposure history before making a diagnosis.