

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 4576.** Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. BURR) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1315, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance veterans' insurance and housing benefits, to improve benefits and services for transitioning servicemembers, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 12, beginning on line 8, strike "June 1, 2008" and insert "April 1, 2009".

On page 13, line 17, strike "January 1, 2008" and insert "January 1, 2009".

On page 14, line 9, strike "January 1, 2008" and insert "January 1, 2009".

On page 29, line 7, strike "October 1, 2007" and insert "October 1, 2008".

On page 29, line 12, strike "December 31, 2008" and insert "December 31, 2009".

On page 30, line 19, strike "December 31, 2008" and insert "December 31, 2009".

On page 35, line 22, add after the period the following: "The amendment made by the preceding sentence shall take effect on October 1, 2008, and shall expire on January 1, 2010."

On page 38, beginning on line 21, strike "the date of the enactment of this Act" and insert "April 1, 2009".

On page 41, line 16, strike "May 1, 2008" and insert "April 1, 2009".

On page 41, line 18, strike "May 1, 2008" and insert "April 1, 2009".

On page 41, line 24, strike "the date of the enactment of this Act" and insert "April 1, 2009".

On page 42, line 1, strike "the date of the enactment of this Act" and insert "that date".

On page 59, line 17, strike "October 1, 2007" and insert "October 1, 2008".

On page 62, line 22, strike "October 1, 2007" and insert "October 1, 2008".

On page 67, line 23, strike "October 1, 2007" and insert "October 1, 2008".

On page 71, beginning on line 9, strike "October 1, 2007, and ending on September 30, 2011" and insert "October 1, 2008, and ending on September 30, 2012".

On page 71, line 23, strike "March 31, 2011" and insert "March 31, 2012".

On page 72, line 3, strike "September 30, 2011" and insert "September 30, 2012".

On page 72, line 14, strike "fiscal years 2008 through 2011" and inserting "fiscal years 2009 through 2012".

On page 73, line 4, strike "fiscal year 2011" and insert "fiscal year 2012".

On page 75, beginning on line 22, strike "December 31, 2010" and insert "December 31, 2011".

**SA 4577.** Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 334, to provide affordable, guaranteed private health coverage that will make Americans healthier and can never be taken away; which was referred to the Committee on Finance; as follows:

On page 7, line 18, strike the period and insert the following: "or an employer-sponsored health coverage plan described under section 103 offered by an employer."

On page 11, beginning on line 3, strike "offered through the HHA of the adult individual's State of residence".

On page 12, beginning on line 4, strike "offered through the HHA of the adult individual's State of residence".

On page 16, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

**SEC. 103. HEALTH COVERAGE PLANS OFFERED BY EMPLOYERS.**

(a) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A health coverage plan described in section 105(h)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to self-insured plans) that is offered by an employer shall be subject to—

(A) the requirements of subtitle B (except for subsections (a), (d)(2), and (d)(4) of section 111); and

(B) a risk-adjustment mechanism used to spread risk across all health plans.

(2) OTHER PLANS.—A health coverage plan that is not described in section 105(h)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is offered by an employer shall be subject to the requirements of subtitle B (except for subsection (a) of section 111).

(b) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—Employers that offer an employer-sponsored health coverage plan shall distribute to employees standardized, unbiased information on HAPI plans and supplemental health insurance options provided by the State HHA under section 502(b).

(c) PLANS OFFERED THROUGH EMPLOYERS.—An employer-sponsored health coverage plan shall be offered by an employer and not through the applicable State HHA.

On page 22, on line 13, insert "(including a risk-adjustment mechanism)" after "rating principals".

On page 102, line 19, insert "The preceding sentence shall not apply to any employer who has less than 10 employees." after "when paid."

On page 117, line 9, insert "(except for employer-sponsored health coverage plans described under section 103 offered by employers)" after "HHA".

On page 117, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

(4) make risk-adjusted payments to all health insurance issuers and employers offering a HAPI plan in such State to account for the specific population covered by the plan, in accordance with guidelines established by the Secretary;

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in closed session to receive a briefing on a sensitive intelligence matter.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. AKAKA. 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 April 24, 2008, at 10 a.m., to conduct a committee hearing entitled "Turmoil in U.S. Credit Markets: Examining the U.S. Regulatory Framework Assessing Sovereign Investments."

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold an Executive Session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April

24, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., in Room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold an Executive Session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in Room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 10 a.m., in Room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on "Tax Aspects of a Cap-and-Trade System."

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on implementing smart power: setting an agenda for national security reform.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing on international debt relief.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 4:45 p.m. to hold a briefing on a classified matter.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Restoring FDA's Ability to Keep America's Families Safe" on Thursday, April 24, 2008. The hearing will commence at 9:30 a.m. in Room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized