

COMMERCE COMMITTEE BILLS ENACTED INTO LAW UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF CHAIRMAN INOUE

During the 110th Congress, 34 major Commerce Committee bills were signed into law as either free standing legislation or as major provisions to related bills. A summary of those bills follows:

1st Session:

- P.L. 110-53 (H.R. 1/S. 4), Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, was signed into law on August 3, 2007, and included four Commerce Committee bills that relate to security matters within our jurisdiction and one Committee sponsored amendment relating to the activities of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC):

- (1) S. 184, the Surface Transportation and Rail Security Act;
- (2) S. 509, the Aviation Security Improvement Act;
- (3) S. 385, the Interoperable Emergency Communications Act; and
- (4) S. 93, the 911 Modernization Act.

All of these bipartisan bills were reported out of Committee unanimously on February 13, 2007.

In addition, P.L. 110-53 included an amendment, sponsored by Senator Pryor, that authorized the CPSC to operate with a quorum of two commissioners for a six month period ending in February 2008.

The CPSC operated without a quorum from January 2007 to August 2007, which prevented the Commission from conducting any business requiring a vote, including rulemakings or civil penalties, or public hearings.

- P.L. 110-69 (H.R. 2272/S. 761), America COMPETES Act, was signed into law on August 9, 2007. The purpose of the bill is to invest in scientific innovation and education to improve the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy, and S. 761 included two titles within the jurisdiction of the Commerce Committee:

- (1) Division A addressed issues relating to Commerce and Science; and
- (2) Division D addressed issues relating to the National Science Foundation.

- P.L. 110-108 (H.R. 3678), The Internet Tax Freedom Act Amendments of 2007, was signed into law on October 31, 2007. The bill is a companion measure to several bills pending before the Committee and extends the Internet tax moratorium for seven years, through 2014.

- P.L. 110-140 (H.R.6/S.357), the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007, was signed into law on December 19, 2007. The bill included the provisions of S. 357, the Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act, which was ordered to be reported by the Commerce Committee on May 8, 2007. After extensive negotiations with the House, the House adopted H.R. 6, as amended by the compromise, on December 6, 2007.

2nd Session:

- P.L. 110-181 (H.R. 4986), the National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2008, included provisions of S. 1778, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) Authorities Act which was reported out of the Committee during the July 19, 2007, Executive Session, and the text of that bill was adopted as a Senate floor amendment to a previous version of the Defense Authorization, H.R. 1585, on October 1, 2007. H.R. 1585 was vetoed on December 28, 2007.
- P.L. 110-187 (H.R. 3541/S.2096), The Do-Not-Call Improvement Act, was signed into law on February 15, 2008. This law amends the Do-Not-Call Implementation Act to eliminate the automatic removal of telephone numbers registered on the Federal "do-not-call" registry.
- P.L. 110-188 (S. 781), The Do-Not-Call-Registry Fee Extension Act, was signed into law on February 15, 2008. This law amends the Do-Not-Call Implementation Act to make permanent the authority of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to collect fees sufficient to implement and enforce provisions relating to the "do-not-call" registry of the Telemarketing Sales Rule.
- P.L. 110-189 (H.R. 1216/S. 694), Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act of 2007, was signed into law on February 15, 2008. This law directs the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside or outside of light motor vehicles.
- P.L. 110-190 (H.R. 5270), Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2008, extended authority for Federal Aviation Administration taxes through June 30, 2008, and spending and authorities through July 1, 2008.
- P.L. 110-243 (S. J. Res. 17), a joint resolution directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean, was signed into law on June 3, 2008.
- P.L. 110-253 (H.R. 6327), Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2008, extended authority for the Federal Aviation Administration taxes through September 30, 2008, and spending authorities through October 1, 2008.
- P.L. 110-278 (H.R. 814/H.R. 4040/S. 2663), the Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act was signed into law on July 17, 2008. This law requires the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue regulations mandating child-resistant closures on all portable gasoline containers.
- P.L. 110-280 (H.R. 802), Maritime Pollution Prevention Act (MARPOL Annex VI), was signed into law on July 21, 2008. This bill amends the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships to provide for the adoption of Annex VI (Prevention of Air Pollution From Ships Enforcement) of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL Convention, which includes any Protocols or Annexes entered into force for the United States).
- P.L. 110-283 (H.R. 3403/S.428), New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008, was signed into law on July 23, 2008. The bill amends the IP-Enabled Voice Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 to require IP-enabled voice service providers to provide 9-1-1 service, including enhanced 9-1-1 service, to their subscribers.

- P.L. 110-291 (H.R. 3985), Over-the-Road Bus Transportation Accessibility Act, was signed into law on July 30, 2008. The bill prohibits the Secretary from registering or granting authority for bus companies to operate unless they agree to comply with the ADA requirements for bus accessibility.
- P.L. 110-295 (S. 2607), the DTV Transition Assistance Act, passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent on June 19, 2008 with an Inouye/Stevens substitute, passed the House on July 9, 2008, and was signed into law on July 30, 2008.
- P.L. 110-314 (H.R. 4040/S. 2045/S. 2663), the Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Act Conference Report passed the House by a vote of 424-1 on July 30, 2008, passed the Senate by a vote of 89-3 on July 31, 2008, and was signed into law on August 14, 2008. The bill establishes consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's products and reauthorizes and modernizes the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- P.L. 110-315 (H.R. 4137), the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2008, included as Section 971 of Part G, provisions of S. 1650, the Max Cleland Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act, which was reported by the Committee during the June 27, 2008, Executive Session.
- P.L.110-417 (S. 3001/H.R. 5658), the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, included as Title XXXV provisions of S. 2997, the Maritime Administration Act for Fiscal Year 2009, which was reported by the Committee during the May 15, 2008, Executive Session.
- P.L. 110-422 (H.R. 6063/S. 3270), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Act of 2008, passed the Senate on September 25, 2008 and passed the House on September 29, 2008. The bill authorizes appropriations to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for Fiscal Year 2009 for science, aeronautics, exploration, education, space operations, cross-agency support programs, and the inspector general.
- P.L. 110-375 (S. 2482/H.R. 4542), a bill to repeal the provision of title 46, United States Code, requiring a license for employment in the business of salvaging on the coast of Florida, passed the Senate on June 5, 2008, and passed the House on September 27, 2008.
- P.L. 110-337 (S. 996/H.R. 1708), a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to expand passenger facility fee eligibility for certain noise compatibility projects, passed the Senate on February 28, 2008, and passed the House September 17, 2008.
- P.L. 110-394 (H.R. 5618/S. 3160), National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act, passed the Senate with an amendment on September 26, 2008, and passed the House as amended on September 29, 2008. The bill authorizes appropriations for six years for the National Sea Grant College Program, which provides education, training, and technical assistance programs that promote the understanding and management of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources at the local, regional, and national levels.
- P.L. 110-386 (S. 1582/ H.R. 3352), Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2008, passed the Senate on September 26, 2008, and passed the House on September 29, 2008. The bill authorizes more than \$785 million over 7 years to provide hydrographic data and services that support

safe and efficient maritime commerce, improve ocean and coastal mapping, and support the conservation and management of coastal and ocean resources.

- P.L. 110-407 (S. 3598/ H.R. 6295), a bill to amend titles 46 and 18, United States Code, with respect to the operation of submersible vessels and semi-submersible vessels without nationality, passed the Senate on September 25, 2008, and passed the House on September 29, 2008. This bill would designate the operation of submersible vessels or semi-submersible vessels without nationality as a threat to national security and would prohibit their operation in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States.
- P.L. 110-330 (H.R. 6984), Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2008, extended authority for the Federal Aviation Administration taxes through March 31, 2009, and spending authorities through April 1, 2009.
- P.L. 110-368 (H.R. 6946), a bill to make a technical correction in the NET 911 Improvement Act of 2008, passed the House on September 25, 2008, and passed the Senate on September 27, 2008.
- P.L. 110-385 (S. 1492), Broadband Data Improvement Act, passed the Senate on September 26, 2008, and passed the House with an amendment on September 29, 2008. The bill as amended by the House passed the Senate on September 30, 2008. The bill would improve the quality of federal and state data regarding the availability and quality of broadband services and to promote the deployment of affordable broadband services to all parts of the Nation. In addition, S. 1965, Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, was included as a title to S. 1492.
- P.L. 110-432 (H.R. 2095/ S. 1889 and S. 294/ H.R. 6003), incorporates the text, as negotiated between the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Commerce Committee, of the Committee's two rail related bills: (1) S. 1889, Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act of 2007; and (2) S. 294, Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008. H.R. 2095 as negotiated between the House and the Senate would reauthorize the Federal rail safety programs for 6 years; combat fatigue in the rail industry by revising the hours of service requirements; require the Secretary to prescribe a regulation regarding risk-based safety programs; encourage and require in certain circumstances, the use and development of rail safety technology including positive train control; require improvements to increase highway-rail grade crossing safety; enhance the Federal Railroad Administration's enforcement capabilities and transparency; improve employee training, track inspection procedures, and other safety enhancements; and clarify federal jurisdiction over solid waste rail transfer facilities. The provisions of S. 294 would authorize a total of \$11.4 billion in funding over 6 years for Amtrak capital and operating grants and a new State capital grant program for rail infrastructure projects; require that Amtrak institute reform measures, including the developing a five-year financial plan, increasing the accountability of the Amtrak Board of Directors, creating new financial and cost-accounting systems, and developing metrics and standards to measure performance and service quality, all with a goal of reducing its federal subsidy; require Amtrak to develop a plan to bring the Northeast Corridor to a state of good repair by 2012; create an effective process by which Amtrak can challenge freight railroad-related delays to its trains, authorizes the assessment of fines for such delays, and permits freight railroads to bid to operate passenger rail services in lieu of Amtrak over poorly-performing Amtrak routes; and make other improvements. The House passed H.R. 2095 with an amendment reflecting the agreement on September 24, 2008.

- P.L. 110-393 (H.R. 5350), a bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange certain National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration property located in Norfolk, Virginia, passed the Senate with an amendment on September 26, 2008, and passed the House with the Senate amendment on September 29, 2008.
- P.L. 110-452 (S. 602), Child Safe Viewing Act of 2007, passed the Senate on September 30, 2008. The bill requires the FCC to initiate a proceeding to consider measures to encourage or require the use of technologies that can improve or enhance the ability of a parent to protect his or her child from any indecent or objectionable video or audio programming, as determined by the parent, compatible with various communications devices or platforms.