

¶47.6 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—
FEDERAL COUNCIL ON AGING

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mrs. SCHROEDER, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 204(f) of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3015(f)), I hereby transmit the Annual Report for 1993 of the Federal Council on the Aging. The report reflects the Council's views in its role of examining programs serving older Americans.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 11, 1994.

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor.

¶47.7 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORIZATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mrs. SCHROEDER, pursuant to House Resolution 420 and rule XXIII, declared the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2442) to reauthorize appropriations under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended, to revise administrative provisions of the Act to improve the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to administer grant programs, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mrs. SCHROEDER, by unanimous consent, designated Mr. TORRES as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole; and after some time spent therein,

¶47.8 RECORDED VOTE

A recorded vote by electronic device was ordered in the Committee of the Whole on the following amendment submitted by Mr. KANJORSKI:

At the end of the bill add the following new title:

**TITLE III—BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE**

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Economic Growth and Technology Commercialization Act of 1994".

SEC. 302. FINDINGS, PURPOSES, AND DEFINITIONS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress hereby finds the following:

(1) Through its support and funding of research and development in this Nation's Federal agencies, laboratories, and educational institutions, the Federal Government has fostered the creation of thousands of technologies, processes, and other proprietary rights owned, or held in whole or part, by the Federal Government.

(2) If commercialized, these technologies, processes, and other proprietary rights owned, or held in whole or part, by the Federal Government hold the potential to be a significant tool to foster economic growth and to create significant numbers of new jobs at good wages for American workers.

(3) Throughout the Federal Government, there is no single inventory or source of information on technologies, processes, and other proprietary rights owned, or held in whole or part, by the Federal Government.

(4) Information on technologies, processes, and other proprietary rights owned, or held in whole or part, by the Federal Government is not standardized in form or content, is separately maintained by numerous Federal agencies and departments, and is not easily accessible by the public.

(5) Businesses and entrepreneurs in areas in need of economic growth and revitalization are largely unaware of the existence of these technologies, processes, and other proprietary rights and largely unaware of the possibilities for obtaining the rights to these technologies, processes, and other proprietary rights for the purpose of commercialization.

(6) It is in the economic interest of the United States to facilitate the private sector commercialization of technologies, processes, and other proprietary rights by United States businesses located in areas in need of economic growth and revitalization.

(7) Greater effectiveness may be achieved through the utilization of the private sector corporate structure and profit incentives in facilitating the commercialization of technologies, processes, and other proprietary rights than can reasonably be expected by the Federal Government performing this function.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this title are as follows:

(1) To provide assistance to private-sector United States businesses, located in areas in need of economic stabilization and revitalization, to commercialize technologies, processes, and other proprietary rights owned, or held in whole or part, by the Federal Government.

(2) To create new employment opportunities by facilitating the commercialization of technologies, processes, and other proprietary rights by United States businesses and entrepreneurs in areas in need of economic growth and revitalization.

(3) To develop a single, comprehensive data base of information on technologies, processes, and other proprietary rights owned, or held in whole or part, by the Federal Government, which is standardized and easily accessible.

(4) To heighten the awareness of United States businesses and entrepreneurs of the availability for commercialization of technologies, processes, and other proprietary rights owned, or held in whole or part, by the Federal Government.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this title, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

(2) CORPORATION.—The term "Corporation" means the Business Development and Technology Commercialization Corporation established under this title.

(3) BOARD.—The term "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Business Development and Technology Commercialization Corporation.

(4) QUALIFIED CONCERN.—The term "qualified concern" means a United States-based consortium, a private United States business, or an educational institution participating in a joint project with 1 or more private United States businesses, for the development and commercialization of technologies, processes, and other proprietary rights—

(A) owned or held in whole or part by Federal departments, agencies, or government-controlled corporations;

(B) developed in Federal laboratories;

(C) arising in the course of federally funded research at educational institutions, other units of government, or with private concerns; or

(D) which are made available to the Federal Government by private concerns.

SEC. 303. CONSOLIDATION OF INFORMATION ON TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF DATA.—The Secretary shall establish and maintain an integrated, comprehensive data base describing all technologies, processes, and other proprietary rights owned, or held in whole or part, by the Federal Government, or which originated in the course of federally funded research in which the Federal Government has an interest.

(b) STANDARDIZATION AND ACCESSIBILITY OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall take such steps as are necessary to ensure that the information contained in the data base established under subsection (a) is in a standardized form, is accessible and usable in a manner as simple and easy to use as possible, recognizing the needs of small and medium-sized businesses.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) consult with and, to the extent practicable, utilize the capabilities of other executive agencies, as appropriate, to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of this section; and

(2) explore, with other executive agencies, ways to avoid duplication of effort by consolidating the administration of the program established by this section with any other similar Federal program, and as part of such consolidation may delegate administrative functions, as necessary and appropriate, to another executive agency.

(d) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Other executive agencies shall provide such information, and in such form, as determined by the Secretary and shall cooperate with the Secretary in carrying out this section.

(e) ACCESS TO THE DATA BASE.—

(1) ACCESS TO THE DATA BASE BY THE CORPORATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall provide unlimited access to the data base established under this section to the Business Development and Technology Commercialization Corporation established under this part, without fee, to assist the Corporation in meeting its responsibilities under this part.

(2) ACCESS TO THE DATA BASE BY THE PUBLIC.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall, by regulation, develop and implement procedures providing for access to the data base established under this section to members of the general public.

(3) RESTRICTIONS.—If, in consultation with the heads of other executive agencies, the Secretary determines that access by the Corporation or any other person to information contained in the data base established under this section would—

(A) threaten national security;

(B) violate the proprietary rights of any private interest; or

(C) be otherwise inappropriate, the Secretary shall take such steps as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate to limit access to the information in the data base described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) to the Corporation or any other person.

(f) GAO REVIEW OF CURRENT FEDERAL TECHNOLOGY UTILIZATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION EFFORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of all technology utilization and commercialization activities within all Federal departments, agencies, and laboratories, or which are otherwise supported by Federal funds. This review shall identify those activities which may overlap or duplicate the technology utilization and commercialization activities provided for under this title.

(2) REPORTS.—Before the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General