

The President has signed S. J. Res. 154 - White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals. This bill extends the period during which the President is authorized to call a White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals and the time during which funds appropriated for the Conference will remain available for expenditure.

S. J. Res. 154 will extend for one year, from December 7, 1976 to December 7, 1977, the period during which the President is authorized to call a White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals. It will also extend from June 30, 1977 to September 30, 1978 the period during which funds appropriated for the Conference would remain available for expenditure.

The purpose of the Conference is to "develop recommendations and stimulate a national assessment of problems, and solutions to such problems, facing individuals with handicaps."

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The President has signed H. R. 5512 - National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act amendment. This bill generally prohibits the administrative transfer or other disposition of lands that comprise the National Wildlife Refuge System and requires that the Secretary of the Interior administer all areas within the System through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Under the National Refuge System Administration Act, units of the System are established by law, Executive order, or Secretarial order and administered by the Secretary of the Interior. Acquired lands within the System may be disposed of if the Secretary, after consultation with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, determines that such lands are no longer needed.

H. R. 5512 will amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act in three ways:

First, all units of the System would be administered by the Secretary through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Second, in transferring or disposing of refuge lands, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission must concur with the Secretary that such lands are no longer needed.

Third, all units and other lands within the System on January 1, 1975, or thereafter would continue to be a part of the System unless otherwise specified by an Act of Congress.

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The President has signed S. 270 - Removal of restrictions on airport property in Elkhart, Kansas. This bill authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to remove restrictions on the use of Federal land conveyed to Elkhart, Kansas, for airport purposes.

S. 270 will authorize the Secretary of Transportation to release the city of Elkhart, Kansas, from the restriction specifying that Federal property conveyed to the city for airport purposes shall automatically revert to the Federal government if the property ceases to be used for such purposes. This would allow part of the airport property to be used for economic development.