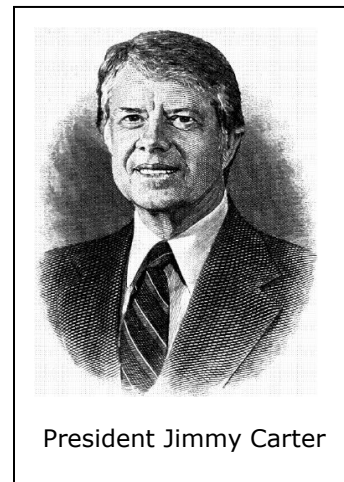


# Ninety-Sixth Congress

Jan. 15, 1979-Dec. 16, 1980

## Administration of Jimmy Carter

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### Historical Background

President Jimmy Carter surprised many with his announcement late in 1978 that the United States would establish diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China as of January 1, 1979. Breaking diplomatic relations with the Nationalist Chinese administration on Taiwan presented Congress with several legal, economic, and strategic concerns regarding future relations between the two countries. Late in March 1979, Congress completed work on legislation placing U.S. relations with Taiwan on an unofficial basis and provided security assurance to this end.

During June, legislation was approved authorizing \$4.8 billion in special aid to Israel and Egypt for Federal fiscal year 1979 to help in the implementation of the Camp David accords. With the signing of legislation implementing the Panama Canal Treaties on September 27, 1979, the 96<sup>th</sup> Congress concluded its most emotional foreign policy debate. On March 31, 1980, Congress authorized \$75 million in emergency economic aid for Nicaragua.

At the same time, during Carter’s final two years as President, Congress also faced several domestic concerns that required the assembly to devote much of its time reevaluating the Federal Government’s role in the energy industry and attempting to resolve the Nation’s fiscal woes.

Cutbacks in Iranian oil early in 1979 focused congressional attention on how ill-prepared the National was to deal with fuel shortages. Finally, in November 1979 Congress approved legislation authorizing the President to draft a standby rationing plan subject to congressional review. To disapprove the plan, both Houses had to vote against it, and if the lawmakers’ rejections were vetoed by the President, it could be overridden only by a two-thirds majority in each House.

House	Senate
Majority Party: Democrat (279 seats)	Majority Party: Democrat (58 seats)
Minority Party: Republican (156 seats)	Minority Party: Republican (41 seats)
Other Parties: None	Other Parties: Independent (1 seat)
Speaker of the House: Thomas	Senate Majority Leader: Robert C.

Congress and the President also agreed to a five-year, \$19 billion synthetic-fuels program to stimulate domestic commercial production of alternative fuels. Late in 1979, additional legislation was enacted which provided for a multi-billion dollar package to aid in the development of synthetic fuels to be administered by a Synthetic Fuels Corporation. During 1980, two bills aimed at giving a boost to commercial use of ocean thermal energy were enacted, and a law was approved which encouraged the development of windmills to supply electric power.

On July 26, 1979, Carter signed a new trade bill which he felt would create jobs, spur exports, and enhanced the prospect of peace. That December, he approved legislation providing for a new countercyclical formula to determine how much unprocessed beef and veal could be imported each year. Late in April 1980, Congress completed work on an international sugar pact designed to stabilize world sugar prices.

The establishment of the Department of Education in October 1979 set a milestone in Federal education legislation during the first session of the 96<sup>th</sup> Congress. As part of this process, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare was re-designated the Department of Health and Human Services.

One of the first pieces of legislation to be approved in 1980 authorized Federal help for the financially ailing Chrysler Corporation, the Nation's tenth largest corporation and the third largest auto maker. That March, in what Treasury Secretary G. William Miller characterized as the "most important legislation dealing with banking and finance in nearly half a century," Congress restricted the Nation's financial industry. The largest tax ever on an American industry became law three months later with the enactment of the Crude Oil Windfall Profits Tax, which was expected to provide the Federal Government with revenues of about \$227 billion over the following ten years.

In May of 1980, emergency action for the second year in a row was taken to prevent the food stamp program from running out of money. By the end of June, congressional approval had been secured for a law aimed at getting welfare children out of foster homes and back with their families or into adoptive homes. Additional notable legislation approved during June 1982 reduced Social Security and welfare expenditures by an anticipated \$2.6 billion for Federal fiscal years 1981 through 1985; provided Federal funds for technical assistance and loans for removing asbestos hazards in the Nation's schools; and opened the way for U.S. mining companies to explore the ocean floor for mineral resources.

During September, legislation specifically designed to strengthen the U.S. Department of Agriculture's role as the lead agency in coordinating a government-wide rural development strategy was enacted. Near the end of the month, Carter's proposal to end direct payments to farmers for crop damage caused by drought and other natural causes was approved, and in the place of the payments to farmers was a plan to subsidize a greatly expanded Federal crop insurance program.

Work was completed at the same time on legislation to tighten funding requirements and reduce government liability for multiemployer pension



Senate Majority Leader  
Robert C. Byrd



Speaker of the House  
Thomas ('Tip') Phillip  
O'Neil Jr.

plans covering 8 million workers. Passage of the Mental Health Systems Act of 1980 restructured and expanded Federal mental health services; in addition, Carter signed a law establishing a new psychological counseling program for Vietnam veterans.

Overtaking a 1978 Supreme Court decision that allowed surprise police searches of news organizations, on Oct. 13, 1980, Carter signed the Privacy Protection Act into law, thereby placing stringent limits on such searches. Also that fall, Congress revised its oversight responsibilities of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and other U.S. intelligence-gathering operations. Efforts to reduce the burden of federally imposed paperwork received a boost late in the year with the passage in December of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980.

During the final few months of 1980, Congress focused on science and technology and approved the National Aquaculture Act, a five-year, \$285 million program aimed at improving the nation's industrial technology, and an overall national materials policy. It also revised existing U.S. patent policy relating to federally funded inventions, and approved simplification procedures for handling certain patent disputes.

In addition, Congress approved legislation virtually tripling the number of refugees who could enter the country. Four other important measures included: two major transportation deregulation acts designed to streamline the Government's regulation of the trucking and railroad industries; a law restricting future development of more than 100 million acres of Federal lands in Alaska; and a \$1.6 million "superfund" established to clean up toxic contaminants spilled or dumped into the environment.

As one of its last acts, the 96<sup>th</sup> Congress approved "reconciliation" legislation designed to trim the Federal fiscal year 1981 budget by more than \$8.2 billion.

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [\*Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980\*](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

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## **War or Peace?**

### **SALT II Treaty and Iran Hostage Crisis**

During the 1979 State of the Union address, President Carter said, "America, our beloved country, is at peace." This was followed by his declaration that the U.S. had no "desire to be the world's policeman. But America does want to be the world's peacemaker." In line with these statements, negotiations aiming to limit and control nuclear arms continued, and on June 18, 1979 the SALT II Treaty and Protocol was signed in Vienna by Carter and Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev.

However, on November 4, 1979 Iranian demonstrators, composed mostly of students, stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran where they took 66 hostages, mostly U.S. diplomats and staff, as well as some foreign nationals,

thereby beginning the Iran Hostage Crisis. On Nov. 19-20, 13 of the hostages were released, and on July 11, 1980, another hostage was released, leaving 52 American hostages in Iranian custody until January 20, 1981. Carter responded to the taking of the hostages by halting all oil imports from Iran and freezing all Iranian assets. In April 1980, a military operation aimed at rescuing the hostages had been attempted but was cancelled because of "equipment failure." After the operation was cancelled, a ground collision between two aircraft resulted in the deaths of eight servicemen.

In addition, on December 24, 1979 the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. Viewed as an act of aggression, the United States imposed stiff economic penalties on the Soviet Union. During the 1980 State of the Union address, Carter said, "Let our position be absolutely clear: An attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America and such an assault will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force." That policy became known as the "Carter Doctrine."

During May 1980, the International Court of Justice issued a ruling on an appeal by the United States that ordered Iran to release the hostages; the ruling condemned Iran for "repeated and flagrant violations of international law;" and the court ordered Iran to pay reparations for damages. Despite the ruling Iran continued to hold the hostages, and negotiations for their release continued.

On July 2, 1980, Carter issued Presidential Proclamation 4771 re-instating the requirement that young men register with the Selective Service System. On September 22, 1980, Iraq attacked Iran in an attempt to force a resolution of the disputed boundary between the two countries. In spite of the hostage crisis, the United States maintained a policy of neutrality toward the conflict.

Sources:

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Carter, Jimmy. [\*State of the Union Message, Message from the President\*](#). House, Jan. 16, 1981. 97<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, H.doc.97-13 (Y1.1/7:97-13). ProQuest Congressional, 13410 H.doc.13

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Mark, Clyde R. [\*Iran Hostage Crisis: A Chronology of Daily Developments\*](#). Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division (CRS), Mar. 1, 1981. 97<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, (Y4.F76/1:Ir1/3). ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1981-FND-0052

Preece, Richard M. [\*Iran-Iraq War\*](#). Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division (CRS), July 15, 1988. 100<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, IB88060. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1988-FND-0066

## Economic Trends and Conditions

Following the Iranian Revolution in 1979, world oil prices more than doubled contributing to the worldwide increase in the rate of inflation as well as leading to the 1979 energy crisis. In the United States, the consumer price index rose by over 13 percent, and the output of goods and services rose by less than 1 percent. The acceleration in inflation was concentrated in a few areas; energy, homeownership, finance and early in the year, farm and food products. Despite a slowdown of growth, the President's *Economic Report* of 1980 reported the economy was resisting the forces of recession, and unemployment remained under 6 percent. Wage gains remained constant.

The resilience that had characterized the economy during 1979 ultimately gave way to pressures from sharply higher energy prices and policy measures undertaken in the fight to stall inflation. The slowdown in the growth of the economy that occurred in 1980 was largely the consequence of events that began in 1979, including the oil-price shock. Due to continuing conflicts, oil exports declined from both Iran and Iraq. The weakness of the economy during the first half of 1980 led to significant deterioration in labor markets.

The real gross national product declined at a record rate in the second quarter of 1980, but advanced thereafter, producing the briefest recession on record. In the span of nine months, interest rates surged to record heights and plunged downwards several times. That Congress lifted some controls over drilling for oil and natural gas is credited with domestic production levels for those energy sources reaching new records, and by late 1980 the United States was importing almost 30 percent less oil than in 1978. Before leaving office, Carter argued for continued energy conservation; for reducing inflation; for channeling national output into investment; and for reversing the decline in productivity growth.

Sources:

Carter, Jimmy. [\*Economic Report of the President\*](#). Committee on Economic. Joint, Jan. 1, 1980. 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, H.Doc. 96-248 (Pr39.9:980). ProQuest Congressional, 13336 H.doc.248

Carter, Jimmy. [\*Economic Report of the President\*](#). Committee on Economic. Joint, Jan. 1, 1981. 97<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, H.Doc. 97-3 (Y1.1/7:97-3.) ProQuest Congressional, 13409 H.doc.3

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## Major Treaties

**Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II).** A continuation of first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT), the SALT II negotiations began in 1972 between the United States and the Soviet Union. Those negotiations sought to curtail the manufacture of strategic nuclear weapons. The agreement submitted in June 1979 to the Senate for ratification consisted of a treaty and a protocol that had been signed in Vienna by President Jimmy Carter and Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev. The agreement placed constraints on the strategic nuclear weapons programs of the two signatories. The treaty's provisions included banning new missile



programs; limiting strategic missile type development; two rounds of aggregated ceilings on intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launchers; on submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) launchers; on heavy bombers; on anti-ship ballistic missiles (ASBM); as well as placing a sub-ceiling on launchers of ICBMs, SLBMs and ASBMs carrying multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles (MIRV), and of heavy bombers equipped with long-range cruise missiles. Signed June 18, 1979, it was never officially ratified by the Senate.

Source:

Collier, Ellen C. [Congress and Foreign Policy, 1979](#). Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division (CRS). Jan. 1, 1980. 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, (Y4.F76/1:C76/11/979). ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1980-FND-0064

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## **Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions**

*Givhan v. Western Line Consolidated School District*, held that a teacher's private conversations with her principal, in which she made complaints about the continuance of school segregation, were protected speech and could not be grounds for her job termination, 439 U.S. 410 (1979)

*Orr v. Orr*, held that Alabama laws requiring only husbands pay alimony violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment by virtue of an absolute reliance on a gender-based classification, 440 U.S. 268 (1979)

*Nevada v. Hall*, held that a state can be sued in the court of another state, 440 U.S. 410 (1979)

*Ambach v. Norwich*, held that in a case of two foreign nationals, married to U.S. citizens, who refused to apply for citizenship did not have their Fourteenth Amendment rights violated when their applications for teaching certifications were denied based on their refusal, 441 U.S. 68 (1979)

*Herbert v. Lando*, reversed the decision of the lower courts and held that the First and Fourteenth Amendment do not protect members of the press in totality when dealing with questions surrounding libel accusations, 441 U.S. 153 (1979)

*Bell v. Wolfish*, held that the harsh conditions for pre-trial detainees, such as doubling up on bunks, limiting reading materials, and cavity searches, did not violate their constitutional rights, 441 U.S. 520 (1979)

*Personnel Administrator of Massachusetts v. Fenney*, held that a law that gave preferential hiring treatment to honorably discharged veterans in civil service positions was not a violation of the Equal Protection Clause, in that the law did not blatantly discriminate on the basis of sex, 442 U.S. 256 (1979)

*Parham v. J.R.*, held that Georgia procedures for committing a child into the custody of a mental health facility at the request of a parent was constitutional, as long as that child was not proven to be neglected or abused, 442 U.S. 584 (1979)

*Smith v. Maryland*, held that the installation of a pen register without a court order or a warrant does not violate the Fourth Amendment because there can be no expectation of privacy in the numbers dialed from a home telephone that will be recognized as a legitimate expectation of privacy, 442 U.S. 735 (1979)

*Smith v. Daily Mail Publishing Co.*, held that a Virginia law that required the press to withhold the names of minors charged as juvenile offenders was unconstitutional, 443 U.S. 97 (1979)

*Hutchinson v. Proxmire*, affirmed that defamation in newsletters and press releases, even if not libelous, is still not considered protected speech under the Speech and Debate Clause, 443 U.S. 111 (1979)

*United Steelworkers of America v. Weber*, held that a training program for craft workers that was affirmative action based was not discriminatory, in that the program sought to carry out the goals of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 443 U.S. 193 (1979)

*Gannett Co. v. DePasquale*, held that the public has no constitutional right to attend a criminal trial, and that the temporary withholding of the trial transcripts was within the authority of the court, 443 U.S. 368 (1979)

*Columbus Board of Education v. Penick*, affirmed that the intentional continuing segregation of students on the basis of race was discriminatory under the Equal Protection Clause, and measures for disestablishment of the dual system must take place in the Columbus system, 443 U.S. 449 (1979)

*Dayton Board of Education v. Brinkman*, held that past intentional segregation in schools served as evidence of current intentional segregation under the Equal Protection Clause, and that the eradication of such segregation was necessary, 443 U.S. 526 (1979)

*Mobil Oil Corporation v. Commissioner of Taxes of Vermont*, held that a Vermont tax on New York petroleum business within the state was not in violation of the Due Process Clause, 445 U.S. 425 (1980)

*Vitek v. Jones*, held that due process procedures must be followed when transferring a prisoner from a correctional facility to a mental health facility, 445 U.S. 480 (1980)

*Branti v. Finkel*, held that assistant public defenders could not be dismissed from their jobs by the public defender due to political affiliation, 445 U.S. 507 (1980)

*Payton v. New York*, held that a New York statute which allowed for warrantless searches for felony arrests, was in violation of the Fourth Amendment, 445 U.S. 573 (1980)

*City of Mobile v. Bolden*, held that the election of city commissioners at-large was not in violation of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, even if it thins out the strength of minority votes, 446 U.S. 55 (1980)

*Diamond v. Chakrabarty*, held that a human-made micro-organism is patentable under Federal patent statutes, 447 U.S. 303 (1980)

*Consolidated Edison v. Public Service Commission*, held that utility companies have rights to Free Speech when providing materials that center on public policy with their billing statements, 447 U.S. 530 (1980)

*Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp. v. Public Service Commission*, instituted a four-step analysis for determining the constitutionality of government restrictions on commercial speech. For a restriction to be constitutional it must meet a four-prong test including if the commercial speech at issue is protected by the First Amendment; if it concerns a lawful activity and is not misleading; if the Government's interest in restricting is substantial. If those inquiries yield positive answers then the restrictions must directly advance the governmental interest asserted, and be not more extensive than is necessary to serve that interest, 447 U.S. 557 (1980)

*Prune Yard Shopping Center v. Robins*, held that a shopping center regulation that prohibited public expression activities within the center was infringing on free speech, 447 U.S. 74 (1980)

*Harris v. McRae*, held that Medicaid was not required to fund abortions, even if medically necessary, and that the Hyde Amendment, which directly affected the use of federal funds for abortions, was not in violation of the Constitution, 448 U.S. 297 (1980)

*Williams v. Zbaraz*, held that the denial to performing a non-life saving, though medically necessary, abortion with state medical funds was constitutional under the Hyde Amendment, 448 U.S. 358 (1980)

*Fullilove v. Klutznick*, held that a Federal law requiring a percentage of its funds for public work programs to be used toward services from minority businesses and suppliers to be constitutional and legitimate, 448 U.S. 448 (1980)

*Richmond Newspapers Inc. v. Virginia*, held that the press and public have an "implicit" First Amendment right to attend criminal trials, 448 U.S. 555 (1980)

*Stone v. Graham*, holding that a Kentucky statute requiring the posting of a copy of the Ten Commandments on the wall of each public-school classroom in the state had no secular legislative purpose and was therefore unconstitutional, [449 U.S. 39](#) (1980)

*United States v. Eugene DiFrancesco*, held that Section 3576, which permits the United States to seek appellate review of a sentence imposed by a district court, does not violate the Double Jeopardy Clause of the Fifth Amendment, [449 US 117](#) (1980)

Sources:

Brouger, Cynthia. [Public Display of the Ten Commandments and Other Religious Symbols](#). American Law Division (CRS). Feb. 2, 2011. 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, RS22223. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-2011-AML-0057



Cohen, Henry. [\*Tobacco Advertising: The Constitutionality of Limiting its Tax Deductibility\*](#). American Law Division (CRS), Mar. 4, 1998. 105<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, 98-189 A. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1998-AML-0051

Costello, George A. and Johnny H. Killian. [\*Constitution of the United States of America, Analysis and Interpretation\*](#). Senate, Jan. 1, 1996. 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, S. Doc. 103-6. ProQuest Congressional, 14152 S.doc.6

Lewis, Karen J. [\*Divorce, Alimony and Sex Discrimination: Orr v. Orr\*](#). American Law Division (CRS), July 16, 1979. 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, IB79224. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1979-AML-0030

Murphy, Maureen M. [\*Surveillance by Pen Register without Authorization: Smith v. Maryland\*](#). American Law Division (CRS), Aug. 22, 1979. 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, IB79213. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1979-AML-0042

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## 1979 Events

- **Jan. 1:** [The United States and the People's Republic of China establish full diplomatic relations](#)
- **Feb. 11:** [Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini seizes power in Iran, overthrowing Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi](#)
- **Feb. 17:** The People's Republic of China invades northern Vietnam, launching the Sino-Vietnamese War
- **Mar. 26:** [In a ceremony at the White House, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel sign a peace treaty](#)
- **Mar. 28:** [A partial nuclear meltdown occurs at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, resulting in the release of radioactive gases and iodine into the environment](#)
- **May 25:** [American Airlines Flight 191, a DC-10, crashes during takeoff at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport killing all 271 on board and two people on the ground](#)
- **June 2:** Pope John Paul II arrives in Poland becoming the first Pope to visit a Communist country
- **June 3:** [A blowout at the Ixtoc I oil well causes at least 600,000 tons \(176,400,000 gallons\) of oil to be spilled into the Gulf of Mexico](#)
- **June 18:** [President Jimmy Carter and Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev sign the SALT II agreement in Vienna, Austria](#)
- **July 11:** [Skylab NASA's first orbiting space station, begins its return to Earth after being in orbit for six years and two months](#)
- **July 16:** Iraqi President Hasan al-Bakr resigns and Vice President Saddam Hussein replaces him
- **Oct. 26:** [The President of South Korea, Park Chung Hee, is assassinated by Kim Jaegyu, the director of Korea's Central Intelligence Agency](#)
- **Nov. 4:** [Iranian Hostage Crisis - Iranian radicals, mostly students, invade the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and take 66 hostages including U.S. diplomats and staff, as well as other country's nationals, thereby beginning the Iranian hostage crisis](#)
- **Nov. 12:** [Iranian Hostage Crisis - President Carter orders a halt to all oil imports into the United States from Iran](#)

- **Nov. 14:** *Iranian Hostage Crisis* - [President Carter issues Executive Order 12170, freezing all Iranian assets in U.S. banks and their foreign branches](#)
- **Nov. 19-20:** *Iranian Hostage Crisis* - Iran releases 13 of the hostages being held in Tehran, leaving 53 still in captivity
- **Dec. 9:** The eradication of the smallpox virus is certified
- **Dec. 24:** [The Soviet Union invades Afghanistan](#)

## 1980 Events

- **Jan. 4:** [President Carter proclaims a grain embargo against the Soviet Union with the support of the European Commission](#)
- **Jan. 7:** [President Carter signs a bill approving \\$1.5 billion in loan guarantees to bail out the Chrysler Corporation](#)
- **Jan. 22:** [Andrei Sakharov, Soviet scientist and human rights activist, is arrested in Moscow](#)
- **Jan. 23:** [President Carter in his State of the Union address says the U.S. would use military force to defend its national interests in the Persian Gulf, a policy that became known as the Cater Doctrine](#)
- **Jan. 26:** Israel and Egypt establish diplomatic relations
- **Mar. 21:** [President Carter says the United States will boycott the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow](#)
- **Apr. 7:** *Iranian Hostage Crisis* - [The United States severs diplomatic relations with Iran and imposes economic sanctions](#)
- **May 18:** [Mount St. Helens erupts in Washington State killing 57](#)
- **May 24:** *Iranian Hostage Crisis* - [The International Court of Justice issues its ruling which calls for the release of the hostages taken at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran](#)
- **June 27:** [In response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, President Carter signs Proclamation 4771, requiring males ages 18 to 26 to register for a peacetime military draft](#)
- **July 11:** *Iranian Hostage Crisis* - [Iran releases a single hostage from those being held in Tehran, but keeps 52 captive](#)
- **Sept. 22:** [Iraq launches an invasion of Iran initiating the Iran-Iraq War](#)
- **Nov. 4:** [Ronald Reagan, the former Governor of California and Republican candidate for President, defeats incumbent Democratic President Jimmy Carter](#)
- **Nov. 23:** A magnitude 7 earthquake hits southern Italy

Sources:

Carter, Jimmy. [Blocking Iranian Government property: \[declares a national emergency\]](#). Numbered Executive Orders, 1862-Present, Nov. 14, 1979. Executive Order No. 12170. ProQuest Congressional, 1979-EO-12170

Committee on Agriculture. House. [Recent Developments Pertaining to Grain Embargo](#). GPO, June 25, 1980. 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, Committee on Agriculture Serial No. 96-KKK (Y4.Ag8/1:96-KKK). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1980-HAG-0015

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. Senate. [Chrysler Corporation Loan Guarantee Act](#). GPO, May 20, 1980. 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, (Y4.B22/3:C46/2/980). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1980-BHU-0023

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Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Senate. [Mount St. Helens Impact](#). GPO, June 13, 1980. 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Serial No. 96-108 (Y4.C73/7:96-108). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1980-CST-0039

Committee on Environment and Public Works. Senate. [Three Mile Island Nuclear Powerplant Accident, Part 1](#). GPO, Apr. 10, 23, 30, 1979. 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, Committee on Environment and Public Works Serial No. 96-H12 (Y4.P96/10:96-H12/pt.1). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1979-PWO-0040

Committee on Foreign Affairs. House. [East-West Relations in the Aftermath of Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan](#). GPO, Jan. 24, 30, 1980. 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, (Y4.F76/1: Ea7/13). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1980-FOA-0003

Committee on Foreign Affairs. House. [U.S. Interests in, and Policies Toward, the Persian Gulf, 1980](#). GPO, Mar. 24, Apr. 2, May 5, July 1, 28, Sept. 3, 1980. 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, (Y4.F76/1:P43/2/980). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1980-FOA-0035

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Committee on Foreign Relations. Senate. [Ex. Y, 96-1: the SALT II Treaty](#). GPO, July 20, 1979. 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1979-FOR-0094

Committee on Foreign Relations. Senate. [Information Session on the President's Action to Freeze Official Iranian Funds in the U.S.](#) GPO, Nov. 14, 1979. 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1979-FOR-0120

Committee on Foreign Relations. Senate. [\[Nomination of Leonard Woodcock To Be Ambassador to the People's Republic of China\]](#). GPO, Feb. 8, 1979. 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1979-FOR-0121

Committee on Government Operations. House. [NASA Skylab Reentry](#). GPO, June 4, 1979. 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, (Y4.G74/7:Sk9). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1979-OPH-0042

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## Major Acts

**Taiwan Relations Act.** Declared that it was the policy of the United States “to preserve and promote extensive, close and friendly commercial cultural and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan.” Specified that the United States would conduct its relations through a private corporation, the American Institute in Taiwan. Pledged continued arm sales to the Taiwan government and provided that the United States would take action—which were not specified—in the event of an attack on Taiwan. Assured that all trade, transportation, and cultural links between the two countries remain in effect. Approved Apr. 10, 1979. ([93 Stat. 14; PL96-8](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Veterans’ Health Care Amendments of 1979.** Established two new programs: a program of professional counseling for Vietnam veterans, and a program of preventive health care for veterans with service-connected disabilities. Also provided for expanded treatment and rehabilitation programs for veterans suffering from alcohol or drug dependence or abuse disabilities. Approved June 13, 1979. ([93 Stat. 47; PL96-22](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Special International Security Assistance Act of 1979.** Provided for a broad range of appropriations and authorizations in support of the Camp David Accords signed by the governments of Egypt and Israel. Provided for the construction of an air base in Israel, as well as authorized military and economic aid in the form of loan guarantees and direct aid. Approved June 20, 1979. ([93 Stat. 89; PL96-35](#))

**Trade Agreements Act of 1979.** Established a new, detailed, and substantially faster procedure for resolving complaints considered under U.S. countervailing duty law, which was designed to protect domestic industry against foreign Government subsidies on imported goods. Provided for speedy investigations and imposition of penalties under both the countervailing duty law and anti-dumping statutes, which barred imports at prices below home market prices. Also established a new system of customs valuation that would use the price actually paid for merchandise when sold for exportation to the United States as the primary method of assessing

customs value. Approved July 26, 1979. ([93 Stat. 144; PL96-39](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Panama Canal Act of 1979.** Established the Panama Canal Commission to operate and maintain the Panama Canal through 1999, when Panama would assume complete control of the waterway. Required that funds collected by the Treasury, and all expenditures by the Commission had to be authorized and appropriated by Congress. Created a special civil service system for canal employees, procedures for setting tolls on the canal, transfer of public property, and regulation of shipping and navigation, laws, courts, and cemeteries. Approved Sept. 27, 1979. ([93 Stat. 452; PL96-70](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Department of Education Act.** Consolidated 152 education related programs in a new Cabinet-level Department of Education. Prohibited the Department from increasing Federal control over education. Stressed the need for the Department to strengthen the commitment to equal educational opportunity; to assist public and private groups in improving education; to encourage increased involvement in education; to promote improvements in the quality and usefulness of education through federally supported research; and to improve the coordination, efficiency, and accountability of Federal programs. Approved Oct. 17, 1979. ([93 Stat. 668; PL96-88](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Re-designated the Department of Health and Human Services.** Provided that all references to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in any law, rule regulation, certificate, directive, instruction, or other official paper in force be deemed to refer and apply to the Department of Health and Human Services, except to the extent such functions were transferred to the Department of Education. Approved Oct. 17, 1979. ([93 Stat. 695; PL96-88](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**International Security Assistance Act of 1979.** Authorized the President to provide Israel with \$2.2 billion in military credit to upgrade the Israeli Defense Forces and \$800 million in military grants for Israel. Provided Egypt with \$1.5 billion in military credits, \$200 million in economic grants, and \$100 million in economic credits. Approved July 20, 1979. ([93 Stat. 701; PL96-92](#))

**Emergency Energy Conservation Act of 1979.** Required the President to draft a standby rationing plan and submit it to Congress for review within 120 days. The Act gave Congress 30 legislative days to review the plan, after that period the plan would be considered approved unless a joint resolution of disapproval were adopted. The plan could be approved sooner if a resolution of approval were passed. If the two Houses passed opposing resolutions, the plan would be considered approved. If a joint resolution of disapproval were adopted, the joint resolution could be vetoed by the President, and a two-thirds majority of both Houses would be necessary to override the veto. Approved Nov. 5, 1979. ([93 Stat. 749; PL96-102](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Department of the Interior and Related Agency Appropriation, FY 1980 (Appropriations for Synthetic Fuel Programs).** Created a special fund to be designated the Energy Security Reserve and appropriated \$19 billion “to expedite the domestic development and production of alternative fuels to reduce dependence on foreign supplies of energy resources.” Defined alternative fuels as “gaseous, liquid, or solid fuels and chemical feedstock derived from solid wastes, coal, shale, tar sands, lignite, peat, biomass, unconventional natural gas, and other materials or organic materials other than crude oil or any derivative thereof.” Approved Nov. 27, 1979 ([96 Stat. 954; PL96-126](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Meat Import Act of 1979.** Provided for a countercyclical formula for meat imports, permitting them to increase when domestic supplies are low and prices relatively high and to decrease when domestic supplies are plentiful and prices relatively lower. Approved Dec. 31, 1979. ([93 Stat. 1291; PL96-177](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Chrysler Corporation Loan Guarantee Act of 1979.** Established a loan guarantee board consisting of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Comptroller General and the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, plus two ex-officio members—the Secretaries of Labor and Transportation—to administer \$1.5 billion in loan guarantees to the Chrysler Corporation. Provided that the company had to come up with a matching \$2 billion in assistance from such parties as workers, dealers, and creditors. Approved Jan. 7, 1980. ([93 Stat. 1324; PL96-185](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Refugee Act of 1980.** Established new procedures for admitting refugees and for resettling them once they arrived in the United States. Created the Office of U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs, to be appointed by the President with the Senate’s consent. Authorized reimbursement to States for aid to those persons who sought asylum in the United States before Nov. 1, 1979, but who had neither been granted asylum nor been deported. Approved Mar. 17, 1980. ([94 Stat. 102; PL96-212](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Depository Institutions Deregulation and Monetary Control Act of 1980.** Combines the proposed Monetary Control Act, the Depository Institutions Deregulation Act, and the Consumer Checking Account Equity Act, as well as provisions relating to the powers of thrift institutions, state usury laws, truth in lending simplifications, and foreign control of U.S. financial institutions. It restructured the Nation’s financial industry removing most Federal regulatory distinctions between commercial banks, and savings and loan associations, and extended the Federal Reserve’s power over the bank deposits that make up a large part of the Nation’s money supply. Approved Mar. 31, 1980. ([94 Stat. 132; PL96-221](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Crude Oil Windfall Profits Tax Act of 1980.** Levied a tax on “windfall profits” American oil companies would enjoy as a result of president Carter’s April 1979 decision to end gradual oil price controls. Taxed the windfall at a rate of from 30 percent up to 70 percent depending on the type of oil; the



date the well was first tapped; the method of production; and the producer. Provided that 25 percent of the tax revenues derived would be used for low-income fuel assistance, 60 percent for income tax reductions, and 15 percent for energy and transportation programs. Authorized tax incentives to businesses and homeowners for conserving or producing energy. Approved Apr. 2, 1980. ([94 Stat. 229; PL96-223](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**International Sugar Agreement 1977, Implementation.** Authorized the United States to become a fully participating member of the International Sugar Agreement which was designed to stabilize world sugar prices to remain from 11 cents per pound to 21 cents per pound by establishing a system of export quotas and stockpiles among the 50 sugar exporting and importing member nations. Approved Apr. 22, 1980. ([96 Stat. 336; PL96-236](#)) Complemented the pact itself, which the Senate approved Nov. 30, 1979. (Treaties and Other International Acts Series, 9664)

**Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1980.** Raised the spending ceilings for the food stamp program to \$9.5 billion for Federal fiscal year 1980 and \$9.7 billion for Federal fiscal year 1981 (existing ceilings between \$6.19 billion and \$6.24 billion, respectively). Provided new guidelines covering eligibility and the relationship between the role of States and the Federal Government in administering the program. Approved May 26, 1980. ([94 Stat. 357; PL96-249](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Special Central American Assistance Act of 1980.** Authorized \$80 million under the Economic Support Fund for the Central American countries of Nicaragua (\$75 million) and Honduras (\$5 million). However, before aid could be provided to Nicaragua, the President had to certify that the Nicaraguan Government had not cooperated with, or harbored any international terrorist organization or aided terrorism in other countries. Approved May 31, 1980. ([94 Stat. 422; PL96-257](#))

**Special Security Disability Amendments of 1980.** Decreased the benefits to workers who in the future become eligible for the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program for the poor. Established a new program for voluntary Federal certification of "Medigap" insurance policies sold by private insurance companies to supplement health-insurance coverage provided by Medicare. Approved June 9, 1980. ([94 Stat. 441; PL96-265](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Asbestos School Hazard Detection and Control Act of 1980.** Established a program for inspection of schools to detect the presence of hazardous asbestos materials. Authorized \$22.5 million in grants to help schools find potentially dangerous asbestos, and \$150 million in 20-year, interest-free loans to help them either encase it, or remove it and replace such materials with other suitable building materials. Approved June 14, 1980. ([94 Stat. 487; PL96-270](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980.** Established an adoption assistance program for children with "special needs" who were eligible for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) programs,

AFDC foster care program, or Social Security insurance. The Act limited, for the first time, Federal support for foster care costs. Approved June 17, 1980. ([94 Stat. 500; PL96-272](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act.** Opened the way for U.S. mining companies to explore the ocean floor for minerals while an international seabed treaty was being negotiated. Prohibited commercial development of the seabed prior to Jan. 1, 1988, so that American mining companies could follow any rules which might be set down when the United Nations completed action on a Law of the Sea Treaty. If no international agreement were reached by 1988, this Act would govern ocean mining activities by U.S. companies. Approved June 28, 1980. ([94 Stat. 553; PL96-283](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Energy Security Act.** Established, and funded, a Synthetic Fuels Corporation (SFC) that could provide loan guarantees, purchase guarantees, and guaranteed prices to develop synthetic fuels. In addition, under specified conditions, the SFC could participate in joint ventures and was authorized to own and contract for the construction and operation of synthetic fuel projects. Allocated \$20 billion for the SFC. Approved June 30, 1980. ([94 Stat. 611; PL96-294](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Motor Carrier Act of 1980.** Sharply curtailed regulation of the trucking industry by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Made it easier to obtain new operating authority; limited the operation of rate bureaus; allowed owner-operators to carry regulated commodities under certain conditions; and eliminated some restrictions on operating authority such as continuous route limitations and gateway restrictions. Approved July 1, 1980. ([94 Stat. 793; PL96-296](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Research, Development, and Demonstration Act.** Provided for an accelerated research and development program by the Department of Energy to achieve early application of ocean thermal energy conversion systems. Directed the Department of Energy to encourage construction of pilot plants, with a goal of having demonstration plants in operation by 1986 capable of generating at least 100 megawatts from ocean thermal energy. Allocated \$75 million for Federal fiscal year 1981 for this program. Approved July 17, 1980. ([94 Stat. 941; PL96-310](#))

**Ocean Thermal Energy Conservation Act of 1980.** Established the legal framework to govern the operations of ocean thermal energy conversion plants on the high seas. Provided that licenses and permits would be handled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Approved Aug. 3, 1980. ([94 Stat. 974; PL96-320](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Wind Energy Systems Act of 1980.** Called for the contribution of wind energy conversion systems of 800 megawatts of electrical power by the end of Federal fiscal year 1988. Allocated \$100 million for Federal fiscal year 1981 to accelerate the development of wind energy systems. Established a program of research, development, testing, and cost-sharing demonstrations to help achieve the stated goals and make the industry self-sustaining by that

time. Approved Sept. 8, 1980. ([94 Stat. 1139; PL96-345](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Regulatory Flexibility Act.** Required all Federal agencies who promulgate Federal regulations to analyze the impact of any regulatory actions on small entities, including small businesses, non-profit organizations and local governmental jurisdictions, and where the regulatory impact is likely to be significant, agencies must seek less burdensome alternatives. Approved Sept. 19, 1980. ([94 Stat. 1164; PL96-354](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Rural Development Policy Act of 1980.** Established a process of consultation and development among Federal, State, local, and private agencies on economic, health and other problems of rural areas. Required the Secretary of Agriculture to prepare a comprehensive rural development strategy, and to submit this document and annual updates to the Senate and House Agriculture Committees on January 31 of each year. Also increased the annual appropriation for Farmers Home Administration rural development grants from \$10 million to \$15 million. Approved Sept. 24, 1980. ([94 Stat. 1171; PL96-355](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**National Aquaculture Act of 1980.** Provided for the development of aquaculture in the United States and established an information service for such activities. Directed that a study be made of the capital requirements for aquaculture development and plan be formulated based on those findings. Required a study be conducted of the regulatory constraints on the aquaculture industry, and a plan be formulated for action based on those findings. Appropriated \$70 million for the Federal fiscal years 1981 through 1983 to be divided among the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce and the Interior; and directed that the three departments prepare a National Aquaculture Development Plan. Approved Sept. 26, 1980. ([94 Stat. 1198; PL96-362](#))

**Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1980.** Amended the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, to improve retirement income security under private multiemployer pension plans by strengthening the funding requirements for those plans; as well as authorizing plan preservation measures for financially troubled multiemployer pension plans; and it revised the manner in which pension plan termination insurance provisions apply to multiemployer plans. Approved Sept. 26, 1980. ([94 Stat. 1208; PL96-364](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1980.** Abolished direct payments to farmers for crop damage caused by drought or other disasters in favor of a new subsidized, expanded Federal insurance program. Dropped restrictions that had limited crop insurance to about half of the Nation's counties, and to only 26 of the Nation's approximately 400 crops. Allowed farmers preferring private coverage for hail and fire damage to receive discounts on Federal policies that reflected the cost of private coverage. Approved Sept. 26, 1980. ([94 Stat. 1312; PL96-365](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Mental Health Services Act.** Extended the existing Community Mental Health Center Services Act, but starting in 1982 the programs authorized by the Act would target the bulk of Federal aid to the elderly, severely disturbed children and adolescents, and the chronically mentally ill. It established mental health systems programs, as well as grants to community health centers to assist in meeting their operational costs. It increased the role of State mental health authorities in designating which projects would receive Federal funds. Also provided for assistance in counseling and follow-up counseling for rape victims and the immediate family of rape victims. Approved Oct. 7, 1980. ([94 Stat. 1564; PL96-398](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Privacy Protection Act of 1980.** Barred Federal, State and local law enforcement officers from using warrants to search newsrooms and other organizations engaged in First Amendment activities, except in specific circumstances. Required the Attorney General to issue guidelines to Federal officers concerning searches for materials held by third parties neither suspected of a crime nor working in the First Amendment area. Approved Oct. 13, 1980. ([94 Stat. 1879; PL96-440](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Staggers Rail Act of 1980.** Established a national policy aimed at minimizing regulation of the Nation's railroads and to the extent possible, allow competition and the demand for services to establish railroad rates. Allowed the Interstate Commerce Commission to determine rate reasonableness in those instances when any railroad dominated a market and its rates exceeded certain percentages of variable, or out-of-pocket, transportation costs. Removed most of a railroad carriers' immunity from antitrust laws to collectively set rates. Approved Oct. 14, 1980. ([94 Stat. 1895; PL96-448](#)) ([Regulatory History](#)). Certain provisions of the Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in *Railway Labor Executives' Assn. v. Gibbons*, 50 LW4258 (Mar. 2, 1982)

**Intelligence Authorization Act of Fiscal year 1981.** Provided the Federal fiscal year 1981 appropriations (the amounts of which were classified) for the intelligence activities of the Central Intelligence Agency and other Government intelligence agencies. Appropriated \$11.4 million for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's counter-terrorism operations in the United States; \$17.8 million for staff support for the Director of CIA; and \$55.3 million for the CIA Retirement and Disability Fund. Reduced the number of congressional committees entitled to receive notification of covert activities from eight to two- the House and Senate Intelligence Committees. Required the President to "report in a timely fashion to the Intelligence Committee any illegal intelligence activity or significant intelligence failure and any corrective action that has been taken or planned." Approved Oct. 14, 1980. ([94 Stat. 1975; PL96-450](#))

**Foreign Service Act of 1980.** Reorganized and consolidated the various components of the Foreign Service of the United States to create more uniform statutory terms and conditions of Foreign Service employment. Simplified the personnel categories in the Foreign Service, emphasized and reaffirmed the Foreign Service requirement of worldwide service availability, and established a new Senior Foreign Service. Lifted the

mandatory retirement age from 60 to 65 years. Approved Oct. 17, 1980. ([94 Stat. 2071; PL96-465](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980.** Required the President devise a suitable mechanism for dealing with materials-related problems at the Executive Office/Cabinet level. Directed the Secretaries of Commerce, Defense, the Interior, and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop initiatives for solving a variety of materials-related problems. Approved Oct. 21, 1980. ([94 Stat. 2305; PL96-479](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980.** Appropriated \$285 million over five years for programs to improve the Nation's industrial technology. Created a new, independent agency—the National Technology Foundation—to “promote the advance of technology, technological innovation, and the supply of technological manpower for the improvement of the economic, environmental, and social well-being of the United States.” Approved Oct. 21, 1980. ([94 Stat. 2311; PL96-480](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.** Reserved more than 100 million acres for conservation and imposed restrictions on the exploration of oil, materials, and timber. Designated 43.6 million acres for new national parks, monuments, and park reserves; 53.7 million acres for new wildlife refuges; and 56.4 million acres of wilderness protection in new and existing conservation units. It also allowed seismic exploration for oil and gas, but no drilling, on 900,000 acres of the coastal plain in the William O. Douglas Arctic Wildlife Range. Also finalized the conveyance of lands to the State mandated by the Alaska Statehood Act, and completed transfer of some 44 million acres of land due to Alaskan natives under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Approved Dec. 2, 1980. ([94 Stat. 2371; PL96-487](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Omnibus Reconciliation Act 1980.** Provided for spending reductions totaling \$4.6 billion for Federal fiscal year 1980 beginning Oct. 1, 1980, and revenue-raising provisions expected to yield \$3.6 billion during the same fiscal year. Spending reductions included programs involving health, education and labor; the post office and civil service; highways, railroads, and airports; veterans; small businesses, unemployment compensation, and Social Security and public assistance. Revenue increases were to be derived from mortgage subsidy bonds, cash management, capital gains on foreign real estate investments, payroll taxes paid by employers, telephone excise taxes, and alcohol import duties. Approved Dec. 5, 1980. ([94 Stat. 2599; PL96-499](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980.** Established a \$1.6 billion emergency “superfund,” financed over five years by fees on industrial chemicals and feedstocks (87.5 percent) and appropriations (12.5 percent), to clean up toxic contaminants spilled or dumped into the environment. Gave the President broad authority to use the fund for cleanup and for unspecified long-term remedial actions. No funds were to be available for compensating victims of pollution, but funds were

provided for epidemiological studies, chromosomal screening, and a registry of persons exposed to hazardous substances to allow health studies and diagnostic services. Those programs were to be conducted by a new “Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry” located in the Public Health Service. The Act holds the organizations responsible for hazardous waste pollution and spills liable for the entire cleanup costs, with a limit of \$50 million on each incident of damage of natural resources owned by the Federal Government. Approved Dec. 11, 1980. ([94 Stat. 2767; PL96-510](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980.** Amended title 44 of the U.S. Code to reduce paperwork and enhance the economy and efficiency of the Federal Government and the private sector. Established within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) an Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs with the responsibility for overall direction of Federal information policy, statistical activity, records management, automatic data processing, and clearance of new paperwork requirements. Required the Director of OMB to review the paperwork requirements of existing laws and to recommend legislation to reduce paperwork. Approved Dec. 11, 1980. ([94 Stat. 2812; PL96-511](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Patent Trademark Laws Amendments.** Revised existing patent and trademark laws relating to Federally-funded inventions, and it simplified procedures for handling certain patent disputes. Allowed small businesses, universities and non-profit organizations to retain titles to patents resulting from Federally-funded research. Authorized the Patent and Trademark Office to reexamine patents that were challenged on the grounds that a similar patent existed, or the patent was based on technical materials that had already been published. Approved Dec. 12, 1980. ([94 Stat. 3015; PL96-517](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

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