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## Senate votes to end Cuba travel restriction

By Jim Abrams THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Senate joined the House on Thursday in striking at the four-decade-old policy of making travel to Cuba a criminal act, putting Congress on a collision course with Bush administration efforts to step up enforcement of travel restrictions.

"The travel ban does nothing to hurt Fidel Castro," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D. "It only harms Americans." He was co-sponsor of the measure, passed 59-36, that bars use of government money to enforce current travel restrictions.

Last month, the House approved identical language in its version of a \$90 billion bill to fund Transportation and Treasury department programs in the budget year that started Oct. 1.

The votes in the two GOP-controlled chambers came despite a White House warning that the president would be advised to veto the bill if it includes the Cuba provision. The legislation contains vital money for highways, law enforcement and anti-terrorism.

The White House said in a statement that unlicensed tourism "provides economic resources to the Gastro regime while doing nothing to help the Cuban people.'

In neither the Senate nor House did the Cuba vote reach the two-thirds margin need-

ed to overturn a presidential veto. House and but thousands of other Americans visit Senate leaders must negotiate a final compromise on the spending bill; in the past, they have used this process to remove language approved earlier that would have eased penalties against Cuba.

But Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., said the Senate vote was "a strong repudiation of the

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The travel ban

does nothing to hurt

Fidel Castro.

It only harms

Americans.

president's recent announcement that his administration plans to tighten and increase the travel restrictions.'

The Homeland Security Department announced this month that it was enhancing efforts to curtail illegal travel and transport of goods to

Sen. Larry Craig, R. Idaho, a co-sponsor with Dorgan, said fighting terrorism and drug trafficking should be a higher priority

than Cuban tourism. He said a Treasury office was spending 10 percent of its budget "to track down little old grammas from the West Coast who through a Canadian travel agency chose to bike in Cuba.'

The Treasury Department estimates that about 160,000 Americans, half of them Cuban-Americans visiting family members, traveled to Cuba legally last year. Humanitarian and educational groups, journalists and diplomats are also allowed visits,

gally, by way of third countries, risk thousands of dollars in fines and impriso

Tourism officials have estimated that many as 1 million Americans might vi Cuba in the first year after the lifting of

> President imposed the travel ban 1963, a year after the Cub missile crisis. Pres Carter let it lapse in but it was reimposed President Reagan in 1 Violators could face cri penalties of up to \$250

of the trade and travel embargoes, sa that the Cuban president has used then his own advantage to avoid liberalizing tacts with Americans.

2000 to allow sale of agricultural production and medicine on a cash-only basis.

and 10 years in prison. Free-trade Republ Sen. Byron Dorgan mostly from farm st D - North Dakota have joined 1 Democrats in recent year questioning the effective

> Congress loosened the trade embars The House, along with its vote last m

on the travel restrictions, lifted caps money that can be sent to Cuban famil

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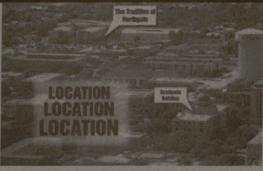
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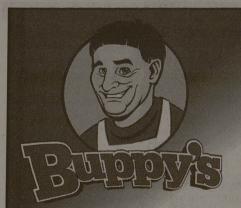
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## Spam no more?

## Lawmakers approve limiting unwanted commercial e-mail

By Ted Bridis THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON Senate has voted to impose tough new limits against sending unwanted commercial e-mails, but supporters warned computer users not to expect any immediate end to offers for prescription drugs, cheap loans, herbal remedies and pornography.

The "Can Spam" bill, approved Wednesday by a 97-0 vote, would outlay the shadiest techniques used by many of the Internet's most prolific e-mailers, who pump out millions of unsolicited messages daily.

The bill, sponsored by Sens. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., and Ron Wyden, D-Ore., would prohibit senders of unsolicited commercial e-mail from disguising their identity by using a false return address or misleading subject line. The legislation also would prohibit senders from harvesting addresses off Web sites and require such e-mails to include a mechanism so recipients can indicate they do not want future mass-mailings.

A provision proposed by Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., authorizes the Federal Trade Commission to establish a donot-spam list, similar to the agency's popular do-not-call list of telephone numbers that marketers are supposed not to a Direct Marketin Association opposed that prov sion and has described it as bad idea that is never going! work.

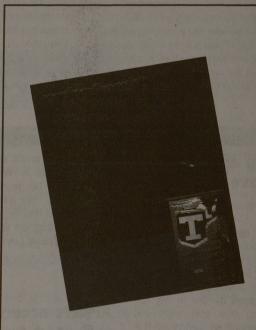
The Bush administrations ports the bill, although simi legislation has stalled in the House.

"Kingpin spammers send out e-mail by the million are threatening to drown Internet in a sea of trash, and American people want stopped," Wyden aus said. Acknowledging problems with e-mails sent from overseas, urged other countries to appro similar limits.

Burns said time spent by con sumers wading through unwan ed messages and the costs ! businesses and Intern providers delivering them we 'escalating and wide-ranging Under the bill, he said, "peop will think twice before they it, and that's the answer."

The bill also requires con mercial e-mail senders include their physical addre along with a clear notice that the message is an advertisement sales pitch.

Despite the vote, senate cautioned computer users not expect an immediate end overflowing inboxes.



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Volume 1

By Sar THE BA

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