

# Calendar No. 351

88TH CONGRESS  
1st Session

SENATE

REPORT  
No. 378

## ISTLE OR TAMPICO FIBER

JULY 24, 1963.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BYRD of Virginia, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

### R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 6011]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6011) to continue for a temporary period the existing suspension of duty on certain istle or Tampico fiber, having considered the same report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 6011 is to continue until September 5, 1966, the existing suspension of duty on dressed or manufactured istle or Tampico fiber.

#### GENERAL STATEMENT

Istle or Tampico fiber, not dressed or manufactured, has been duty free since 1930 under paragraph 1684 of the Tariff Act. The dressed or manufactured fiber was dutiable under a catchall provision in paragraph 1558. Sections 1 and 2 of Public Law 85-284, approved September 4, 1957, transferred the dressed or manufactured fiber to paragraph 1684 for a 3-year period, and Public Law 86-456, approved May 13, 1960, extended the suspension of duty to the close of September 4, 1963. H.R. 6011 would continue this treatment for a further period of 3 years.

Istle or Tampico fiber is derived from several species of the agave plant which is indigenous to Mexico. It is one of the best known and most widely used of all vegetable brush fibers. Its principal use in the United States is in the manufacture of brushes.

The situation at the time of enactment of Public Law 85-284 was that there was no domestic production of the raw fiber and an insignificant production of the dressed fiber from imported faw fiber; that good grades of raw fiber were in short supply; and that the brush

industry and other importers indicated that the prices of dressed fiber had risen, with resulting increases in the cost of production and in the price of the finished product. The purpose of the suspension was to reduce the burden of the higher prices on domestic users of the fibers. Conditions continue to warrant the suspension of this duty.

## DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

U.S. TARIFF COMMISSION,  
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN,  
*Washington, D.C., July 5, 1963.*

HON. HARRY F. BYRD,  
*Chairman, Committee on Finance,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request of June 29, 1963, for a report on H.R. 6011, 88th Congress, to continue for a temporary period the existing suspension of duty on certain istle or Tampico fiber, as passed by the House of Representatives on June 27, 1963.

Istle or Tampico fiber, not dressed or manufactured, has been duty free since 1930 under paragraph 1684 of the Tariff Act. The dressed or manufactured fiber was dutiable under a catchall provision in paragraph 1558 at the rate of 20 percent ad valorem. Sections 1 and 2 of Public Law 85-284, approved September 4, 1957 (71 Stat. 609), transferred the dressed fiber to paragraph 1684 for a 3-year period which would have expired at the close of September 4, 1960. Public Law 86-456, approved May 13, 1960 (74 Stat. 119), continued the suspension of the duty applicable to the dressed fiber through the close of September 4, 1963. The subject bill would extend the period for the suspension of the duty through the close of September 4, 1966.

The situation at the time of enactment of Public Law 85-284 was that there was no domestic production of the raw fiber and an insignificant production of the dressed fiber from imported raw fiber; that good grades of raw fiber were in short supply; and that the brush industry and importing interests indicated that the prices of dressed fiber had risen, with resulting increases in the cost of production and in the prices of the finished product. The object of the suspension was to reduce the burden of higher prices on domestic users of the fibers. We have no information to the effect that the benefit of the suspension has been passed on, in whole or in part, to the users of such fibers.

The attached table shows the volume of imports of such fibers, unmanufactured or dressed, for the years 1950 to 1962. The data are inconclusive as to the effect, if any, of the suspension of duty on such imports.

Sincerely yours,

BEN DORFMAN, *Chairman.*

Enclosure.

*Tampico (istle) fiber—U.S. imports for consumption, 1950-62*

[Quantity in thousands of pounds; value in thousands of dollars; value of imports is foreign value]

Year	Unmanufactured		Dressed		Total	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1950.....	20,729	1,732	8,282	1,406	29,011	3,138
1951.....	20,138	2,139	5,598	1,006	25,736	3,145
1952.....	17,683	1,932	5,775	1,082	23,458	3,014
1953.....	7,652	7,593	8,386	1,451	16,038	9,044
1954.....	5,878	382	4,872	949	10,750	1,331
1955.....	4,146	356	7,087	1,463	11,233	1,819
1956.....	1,830	340	6,605	1,633	8,435	1,973
1957.....	2,545	465	6,626	1,899	9,171	2,364
1958.....	2,836	790	5,004	1,861	7,840	2,651
1959.....	16,321	694	4,037	1,578	20,358	2,272
1960.....	2,406	201	7,328	2,985	9,734	3,186
1961 <sup>1</sup> .....	618	96	5,938	2,403	6,556	2,499
1962 <sup>1</sup> .....	7,296	617	8,280	2,881	15,576	3,498

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary.

Also, favorable reports were received from the Bureau of the Budget, Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, State, Treasury, and Interior.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection 4 of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets; new matter is printed in italic; existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

SECTION 2 OF PUBLIC LAW 85-284 (71 STAT. 609)

SEC. 2. The amendments made by the first section of this Act shall apply only in the case of articles entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, [during the three-year period beginning on the day following the date of the enactment of this Act] *after September 4, 1957, and before September 5, 1966.*

