

Performance Report for Fiscal Year 2001, the Revised Final Performance Plan for Fiscal Year 2002, and the Performance Plan for Fiscal Year 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6357. A communication from the Chairman of the United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Service's report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 2001; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6358. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's annual report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 2001; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6359. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Commission's Final Annual Performance Plan for Fiscal Year 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6360. A communication from the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Administration's Commercial Activities Inventory for 2001; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6361. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office's management controls and financial management systems for calendar year 2001; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6362. A communication from the Manager, Benefits Communications, Western Farm Credit Bank, Farm Credit Bank of Wichita, transmitting, the report of the Bank's Performance Plan for calendar year 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6363. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2001; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6364. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Department's audited financial statements for Fiscal Year 2001; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6365. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to the Commission's Annual Program Performance Report for Fiscal Year 2001; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6366. A communication from the Acting Secretary, Postal Rate Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the discontinuation of service in acting role for the position of Chairman, received on April 1, 2002; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6367. A communication from the Director of the Office of Congressional Relations, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2001; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6368. A communication from the Governor of the State of Nevada, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Statement of Reasons Supporting the Notice of Disapproval of the Proposed Yucca Mountain Project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, without amendment and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 187: A resolution commending the staffs of Members of Congress, the Capitol Police, the Office of the Attending Physician and his health care staff, and other members of the Capitol Hill community for their courage and professionalism during the days and weeks following the release of anthrax in Senator Daschle's office.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 2074. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2002, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 121

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 121, a bill to establish an Office of Children's Services within the Department of Justice to coordinate and implement Government actions involving unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes.

S. 572

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 572, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend modifications to DSH allotments provided under the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000.

S. 611

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 611, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that the reduction in social security benefits which are required in the case of spouses and surviving spouses who are also receiving certain Government pensions shall be equal to the amount by which two-thirds of the total amount of the combined monthly benefit (before reduction) and monthly pension exceeds \$1,200, adjusted for inflation.

S. 808

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 808, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the occupational taxes relating to distilled spirits, wine, and beer.

S. 913

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

CLELAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 913, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of all oral anticancer drugs.

S. 1009

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1009, a bill to require the provision of information to parents and adults concerning bacterial meningitis and the availability of a vaccination with respect to such diseases.

S. 1079

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1079, a bill to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to provide assistance to communities for the redevelopment of brownfield sites.

S. 1140

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1140, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to motor vehicle franchise contracts.

S. 1278

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1278, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a United States independent film and television production wage credit.

S. 1311

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1311, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reaffirm the United States historic commitment to protecting refugees who are fleeing persecution or torture.

S. 1339

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1339, a bill to amend the Bring Them Home Alive Act of 2000 to provide an asylum program with regard to American Persian Gulf War POW/MIAs, and for other purposes.

S. 1367

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1367, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide appropriate reimbursement under the Medicare program for ambulance trips originating in rural areas.

S. 1408

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the

Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1408, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to standardize the income threshold for copayment for outpatient medications with the income threshold for inability to defray necessary expense of care, and for other purposes.

S. 1409

At the request of Mr. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1409, a bill to impose sanctions against the PLO or the Palestinian Authority if the President determines that those entities have failed to substantially comply with commitments made to the State of Israel.

S. 1549

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 1549, a bill to provide for increasing the technically trained workforce in the United States.

S. 1707

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1707, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify the update for payments under the medicare physician fee schedule for 2002 and to direct the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission to conduct a study on replacing the use of the sustainable growth rate as a factor in determining such update in subsequent years.

S. 1722

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1722, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the application of the excise tax imposed on bows and arrows.

S. 1745

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1745, a bill to delay until at least January 1, 2003, any changes in medicaid regulations that modify the medicaid upper payment limit for non-State Government-owned or operated hospitals.

S. 1749

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1749, a bill to enhance the border security of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1777

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1777, a bill to authorize assistance for individuals with disabilities in foreign countries, including victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife and warfare, and for other purposes.

S. 1828

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.

1828, a bill to amend subchapter III of the chapter 83 and chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, to include Federal prosecutors within the definition of a law enforcement officer, and for other purposes.

S. 1899

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1899, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit human cloning.

S. 1917

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1917, a bill to provide for highway infrastructure investment at the guaranteed funding level contained in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

S. 1961

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1961, a bill to improve financial and environmental sustainability of the water programs of the United States.

S. 1984

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1984, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to nonprofit tax-exempt organizations for the purchase of ultrasound equipment to provide free examinations to pregnant women needing such services, and for other purposes.

S. 1986

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1986, a bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to identify a route that passes through the States of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Kansas as a high priority corridor on the National Highway System.

S. 2064

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2064, a bill to reauthorize the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3032

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3032 intended to be proposed to S. 517, a bill to authorize funding the Department of Energy to enhance its mission areas through technology transfer and partnerships for fiscal years 2002 through 2006, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 2074. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2002, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am tremendously pleased to introduce legislation that will authorize a cost-of-living adjustment, COLA, to veterans' compensation for next year.

Every year, Congress fulfills its obligation to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to veterans disability benefits. While we can never truly repay the debt that we owe to these individuals for their sacrifices to our country, what we can do is ensure that the benefits we provide for the men and women who are disabled while serving in places such as Afghanistan retain their value and are not eroded by inflation.

The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2002 continues this tradition of fulfilling our obligation to America's veterans by directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase, as of December 1, 2002, the rates of veterans' disability compensation, as well as compensation for eligible dependents and surviving spouses. This increase would be the same percentage as the increase Social Security Act beneficiaries will receive.

The COLA is enormously important to veterans and their families. It is critical that veterans' disability compensation rates keep pace with the increasing cost of living. Without it, many disabled veterans might not be able to afford the simple necessities of life—warm clothes, food, and shelter. I, therefore, encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this very important bill.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the legislation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2074

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2002".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 2002, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under sections 1115(1) of such title.