

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. SANTORUM:

S. 1794. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on electron guns for cathode ray tubes (CRT's) with a high definition television screen aspect ratio of 16:9 and other parts used in plasma and LCD televisions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina:

S. 1795. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure with respect to bail bond forfeitures; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 1796. A bill to revitalize rural America and rebuild main street, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself and Mr. KOHL):

S. 1797. A bill to implement antitrust enforcement enhancements and cooperation incentives; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. KYL, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. Res. 253. A resolution to recognize the evolution and importance of motorsports; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM of Florida):

S. Res. 254. A resolution commending the Florida Marlins baseball team for winning the 2003 World Series; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 55

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 55, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the annual determination of the rate of the basic benefit of active duty educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill, and for other purposes.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 269, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to further the conservation of certain wildlife species.

S. 349

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 349, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 453

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 453, a bill to authorize the Health Resources and Services Administration

and the National Cancer Institute to make grants for model programs to provide to individuals of health disparity populations prevention, early detection, treatment, and appropriate follow-up care services for cancer and chronic diseases, and to make grants regarding patient navigators to assist individuals of health disparity populations in receiving such services.

S. 557

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 557, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received on account of claims based on certain unlawful discrimination and to allow income averaging for backpay and frontpay awards received on account of such claims, and for other purposes.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 982

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 982, a bill to halt Syrian support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, stop its development of weapons of mass destruction, cease its illegal importation of Iraqi oil, and hold Syria accountable for its role in the Middle East, and for other purposes.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 1172, a bill to establish grants to provide health services for improved nutrition, increased physical activity, obesity prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1177

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1177, a bill to ensure the collection of all cigarette taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 1246

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1246, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1379, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 1548

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1548, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for the production of renewable fuels and to simplify the administration of the Highway Trust Fund fuel excise taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 1557

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1557, a bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Armenia.

S. 1570

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1570, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a refundable credit against income tax for the purchase of private health insurance, and to establish State health insurance safety-net programs.

S. 1601

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1601, a bill to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to provide for the reporting and reduction of child abuse and family violence incidences on Indian reservations, and for other purposes.

S. 1626

At the request of Mr. DAYTON, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1626, a bill to provide emergency disaster assistance to agricultural producers.

S. 1630

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1630, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral services, and for other purposes.

S. 1708

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1708, a bill to provide extended unemployment benefits to displaced workers, and to make other improvements in the unemployment insurance system.

S. 1734

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1734, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to expand or add coverage of pregnant women under the medicaid and State children's health insurance programs, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 67

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 67, a concurrent resolution expressing the need for enhanced public awareness of traumatic brain injury and supporting the designation of a National Brain Injury Awareness Month.

S. CON. RES. 73

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 73, a concurrent resolution expressing the deep concern of Congress regarding the failure of the Islamic Republic of Iran to adhere to its obligations under a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the engagement by Iran in activities that appear to be designed to develop nuclear weapons.

S. RES. 244

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 244, a resolution congratulating Shirin Ebadi for winning the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize and commending her for her lifetime of work to promote democracy and human rights.

AMENDMENT NO. 1828

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1828 proposed to H.R. 1904, a bill to improve the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to plan and conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1966

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1966 proposed to H.R. 2800, a bill making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2000

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2000 proposed to H.R. 2800, a bill making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2000 proposed to H.R. 2800, supra.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 1796. A bill to revitalize rural America and rebuild main street, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill I introduce today, the rural Renaissance Act, be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1796

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 "Rural Renaissance Act".

SEC. 2. RURAL RENAISSANCE CORPORATION.

Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 379E. RURAL RENAISSANCE CORPORATION.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND STATUS.—There is established a body corporate to be known as the 'Rural Renaissance Corporation' (hereafter in this section referred to as the 'Corporation'). The Corporation is not a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, and shall not be subject to title 31, United States Code.

"(b) PRINCIPAL OFFICE; APPLICATION OF LAWS.—The principal office and place of business of the Corporation shall be in the District of Columbia, and, to the extent consistent with this section, the District of Columbia Business Corporation Act (D.C. Code 29-301 et seq.) shall apply.

"(c) FUNCTIONS OF CORPORATION.—The Corporation shall—

"(1) issue rural renaissance bonds for the financing of qualified projects as required under section 54 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,

"(2) establish an allocation plan as required under section 54(f)(2)(A) of such Code,

"(3) establish and operate the Rural Renaissance Trust Account as required under section 54(i) of such Code,

"(4) perform any other function the sole purpose of which is to carry out the financing of qualified projects through rural renaissance bonds, and

"(5) not later than February 15 of each year submit a report to Congress—

"(A) describing the activities of the Corporation for the preceding year, and

"(B) specifying whether the amounts deposited and expected to be deposited in the Rural Renaissance Trust Account are sufficient to fully repay at maturity the principal of any outstanding rural renaissance bonds issued pursuant to such section 54.

"(d) POWERS OF CORPORATION.—The Corporation—

"(1) may sue and be sued, complain and defend, in its corporate name, in any court of competent jurisdiction,

"(2) may adopt, alter, and use a seal, which shall be judicially noticed,

"(3) may prescribe, amend, and repeal such rules and regulations as may be necessary for carrying out the functions of the Corporation,

"(4) may make and perform such contracts and other agreements with any individual, corporation, or other private or public entity however designated and wherever situated,

as may be necessary for carrying out the functions of the Corporation,

"(5) may determine and prescribe the manner in which its obligations shall be incurred and its expenses allowed and paid,

"(6) may, as necessary for carrying out the functions of the Corporation, employ and fix the compensation of employees and officers,

"(7) may lease, purchase, or otherwise acquire, own, hold, improve, use, or otherwise deal in and with such property (real, personal, or mixed) or any interest therein, wherever situated, as may be necessary for carrying out the functions of the Corporation,

"(8) may accept gifts or donations of services or of property (real, personal, or mixed), tangible or intangible, in furtherance of the purposes of this section, and

"(9) shall have such other powers as may be necessary and incident to carrying out this section.

"(e) NONPROFIT ENTITY; RESTRICTION ON USE OF MONEYS; CONFLICT OF INTERESTS; INDEPENDENT AUDITS.—

"(1) NONPROFIT ENTITY.—The Corporation shall be a nonprofit corporation and shall have no capital stock.

"(2) RESTRICTION.—No part of the Corporation's revenue, earnings, or other income or property shall inure to the benefit of any of its directors, officers, or employees, and such revenue, earnings, or other income or property shall only be used for carrying out the purposes of this section.

"(3) CONFLICT OF INTERESTS.—No director, officer, or employee of the Corporation shall in any manner, directly or indirectly participate in the deliberation upon or the determination of any question affecting his or her personal interests or the interests of any corporation, partnership, or organization in which he or she is directly or indirectly interested.

"(4) INDEPENDENT AUDITS.—An independent certified public accountant shall audit the financial statements of the Corporation each year. The audit shall be carried out at the place at which the financial statements normally are kept and under generally accepted auditing standards. A report of the audit shall be available to the public and shall be included in the report required under subsection (c)(5).

"(f) TAX EXEMPTION.—The Corporation, including its franchise and income, is exempt from taxation imposed by the United States, by any territory or possession of the United States, or by any State, county, municipality, or local taxing authority.

"(g) MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATION.—

"(1) BOARD OF DIRECTORS; MEMBERSHIP; DESIGNATION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON; APPOINTMENT CONSIDERATIONS; TERM; VACANCIES.—

"(A) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The management of the Corporation shall be vested in a board of directors composed of 7 members appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

"(B) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The President shall designate 1 member of the Board to serve as Chairperson of the Board and 1 member to serve as Vice Chairperson of the Board.

"(C) INDIVIDUALS FROM PRIVATE LIFE.—Five members of the Board shall be appointed from private life.

"(D) FEDERAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—Two members of the Board shall be appointed from among officers and employees of agencies of the United States concerned with rural development.

"(E) APPOINTMENT CONSIDERATIONS.—All members of the Board shall be appointed on the basis of their understanding of and sensitivity to rural development processes. Members of the Board shall be appointed so that