

By Mr. ALLEN:

S. 1919. A bill to designate a portion of the United States courthouse located at 2100 Jamieson Avenue, in Alexandria, Virginia, as the "Justin W. Williams United States Attorney's Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 1920. A bill to extend for 6 months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 1921. A bill to amend chapter 3 of title 28, United States Code, to provide for 11 circuit judges on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 1922. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to comply with the World Trade Organization rulings on the FSC/ETI benefit in a manner that preserves manufacturing jobs and production activities in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 1923. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Film Preservation Act of 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JEFFORDS:

S. 1924. A bill to provide for the coverage of milk production under the H-2A non-immigrant worker program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DAYTON, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 1925. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM of Florida, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1926. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore the medicare program and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 1927. A bill to establish an award program to encourage the development of effective bomb-scanning technology; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KERRY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DAYTON, and Mr. DODD):

S. 1928. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to protect consumers against predatory practices in connection with high cost mortgage transactions, to strengthen the civil remedies available to consumers under existing law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1929. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to extend the mental health benefits parity provisions for an additional year; considered and passed.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 1930. A bill to provide that the approved application under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for the drug commonly known as RU-486 is deemed to have been withdrawn, to provide for the review by the Comptroller General of the United States of the process by which the Food and Drug Administration approved such drug, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. Res. 271. A resolution urging the President of the United States diplomatic corps to dissuade member states of the United Nations from supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and to promote within the United Nations General Assembly more balanced and constructive approaches to resolving conflict in the Middle East; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 272. A resolution designating the week beginning November 16, 2003, as American Education Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. KERRY):

S. Con. Res. 84. A concurrent resolution recognizing the sacrifices made by members of the regular and reserve components of the Armed Forces, expressing concern about their safety and security, and urging the Secretary of Defense to take immediate steps to ensure that the reserve components are provided with the same equipment as regular components; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. Con. Res. 85. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the continued participation of the Russian Federation in the Group of 8 nations should be conditioned on the Russian Government voluntarily accepting and adhering to the norms and standards of democracy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 665

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 665, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for farmers and fisherman, and for other purposes.

S. 1136

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1136, a bill to restate, clarify, and re-

vise the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940.

S. 1245

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1245, a bill to provide for homeland security grant coordination and simplification, and for other purposes.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to reauthorize the assault weapons ban, and for other purposes.

S. 1549

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1549, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to phase out reduced price lunches and breakfasts by phasing in an increase in the income eligibility guidelines for free lunches and breakfasts.

S. 1586

At the request of Mr. DAYTON, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1586, a bill to authorize appropriate action if the negotiations with the People's Republic of China regarding China's undervalued currency and currency manipulations are not successful.

S. 1700

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1700, a bill to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 1755

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1755, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to provide grants to support farm-to-cafeteria projects.

S. 1792

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1792, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the same capital gains treatment for art and collectibles as for other investment property and to provide that a deduction equal to fair market value shall be allowed for charitable contributions of literary, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions created by the donor.

S. 1825

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from California

(Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1825, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for the sale and use of unauthorized mobile infrared transmitters.

S. 1853

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1853, a bill to provide extended unemployment benefits to displaced workers.

S. 1858

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1858, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a loan repayment program to encourage the provision of veterinary services in shortage and emergency situations.

S. 1879

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1879, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend provisions relating to mammography quality standards.

S. 1907

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1907, a bill to promote rural safety and improve rural law enforcement.

S. CON. RES. 77

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 77, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress supporting vigorous enforcement of the Federal obscenity laws.

S. CON. RES. 81

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 81, 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. CON. RES. 83

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 83, a concurrent resolution promoting the establishment of a democracy caucus within the United Nations.

S. RES. 120

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 120, a resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of Vietnam Veterans of America.

S. RES. 253

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 253, a resolution to recognize the evolution and importance of motorsports.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 1912. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand pension coverage and savings opportunities and to provide other pension reforms; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, today, together with Senators HATCH and SNOWE, I am introducing, the Retirement Account Portability and Improvement Act of 2003. This legislation improves the portability of retirement savings by eliminating unnecessary complexities and barriers in the retirement savings system, and helps preserve retirement savings by giving American workers tools that will help them consolidate their retirement savings into one easily managed account.

In brief, this bill will make a number of improvements in the retirement savings system to help families preserve retirement assets. It will, for example, enhance the portability of retirement savings by expanding rollover options in traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs, and SIMPLE Plans. The bill also clarifies that when employees are permitted to make after-tax contributions to retirement plans, those after-tax amounts may be rolled over into other retirement plans eligible to receive such rollovers. This clarification will make it easier for workers to move all elements of their 401(k) or 403(b) savings when they change jobs and move between private sector and the tax-exempt sector.

In addition, the bill builds on defined contribution plan reforms enacted in 2001 by requiring a shortened vesting schedule for employer non-elective contributions, such as profit-sharing contributions, to defined contribution plans. As a result, employer contributions will become employee property more quickly, helping workers to build more meaningful retirement benefits. This new vesting schedule corresponds to rules for 401(k) matching contributions enacted in 2001.

Another provision in the bill would end an unfair tax penalty faced by non-spouse beneficiaries. Today, when an employee dies, the benefits in that employee's retirement account are paid out to a non-spouse beneficiary in one payment. The beneficiary must pay tax on the entire amount, and is often forced into a higher tax bracket as a result of the payment. A provision in this bill would allow non-spouse bene-

ficiaries—siblings, children, domestic partners, parents—to roll over the money from the plan to an IRA. This will prevent an immediate tax bite to grieving beneficiaries and allow them to withdraw the money from their IRA over five years or over their own life expectancy.

The bill also helps preserve retirement savings by allowing plans to designate default IRAs or annuity contracts to which employee rollovers may be directed. Employers should be more willing to establish default IRA and annuity rollover options as a result, making it easier for employees to keep savings in the retirement system when they change jobs.

For workers who leave a job without claiming their retirement benefits, the bill improves on the automatic rollover provisions enacted in 2001, by allowing certain small distributions from retirement plans to be sent to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), ensuring that participants are ultimately reunited with their earned benefits. The bill also expands the scope of the PBGC's successful Missing Participants program that matches workers with lost pension benefits.

Employees of state and local governments, including teachers, will benefit from a number of this bill's technical corrections that will facilitate the purchase of service credits in public pension programs, allowing state and local employees to more easily attain a full pension in the jurisdiction where they conclude their career. The bill also contains provisions that would clarify eligibility rights of certain state and local employees who participate in a Section 457 deferred compensation plan.

Congress must take every opportunity to encourage American workers not only to save for retirement, but also to preserve those hard-earned retirement savings. These portability improvements offer one set of tools for making it easier to navigate the retirement savings system and reach retirement with an adequate nest egg. There are many pressing and complex retirement issues that demand attention, but I am hopeful that this legislation, narrowly focused on portability, can be considered quickly and on its own merits.

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

S. 1912

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Retirement Account Portability Act of 2003”.

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.