

States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. REID, Mr. CORZINE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. Con. Res. 53. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that any effort to impose photo identification requirements for voting should be rejected; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 113

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 113, a bill to modify the date as of which certain tribal land of the Lytton Rancheria of California is deemed to be held in trust.

S. 337

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 337, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to revise the age and service requirements for eligibility to receive retired pay for non-regular service, to expand certain authorities to provide health care benefits for Reserves and their families, and for other purposes.

S. 419

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 419, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the treatment of qualified restaurant property as 15-year property for purposes of the depreciation deduction.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, 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. 695

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 695, a bill to suspend temporarily new shipper bonding privileges.

S. 769

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 769, a bill to enhance compliance assistance for small businesses.

S. 828

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland

(Mr. SARBANES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 828, a bill to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1112

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1112, a bill to make permanent the enhanced educational savings provisions for qualified tuition programs enacted as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

S. 1171

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1171, a bill to halt Saudi support for institutions that fund, train, incite, encourage, or in any other way aid and abet terrorism, and to secure full Saudi cooperation in the investigation of terrorist incidents, and for other purposes.

S. 1190

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1190, a bill to provide sufficient blind rehabilitation outpatient specialists at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 1260

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1260, a bill to make technical corrections to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1272

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1272, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, and title II of the Social Security Act to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II.

S. 1358

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1358, a bill to protect scientific integrity in Federal research and policymaking.

S. 1360

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1360, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage to designated plan beneficiaries of employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1373

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Ne-

vada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) were added as cosponsors of S. 1373, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit human chimeras.

S. 1405

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1405, a bill to extend the 50 percent compliance threshold used to determine whether a hospital or unit of a hospital is an inpatient rehabilitation facility and to establish the National Advisory Council on Medical Rehabilitation.

S. 1440

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1440, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation services.

S. 1563

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1563, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to protect and strengthen the safety net of children's public health coverage by extending the enhanced Federal matching rate under the State children's health insurance program to children covered by medicaid at State option and by encouraging innovations in children's enrollment and retention, to advance quality and performance in children's public health insurance programs, to provide payments for children's hospitals to reward quality and performance, and for other purposes.

S. 1581

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1581, a bill to facilitate the development of science parks, and for other purposes.

S. 1633

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1633, a bill to allow law enforcement officers to represent themselves as minors on the Internet to better protect America's children from sexual predators.

S. 1637

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1637, a bill to provide emergency relief to meet the immediate needs of survivors of Hurricane Katrina for health care, housing, education, and financial relief, and for other purposes.

S. 1638

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1638, a bill to provide for the establishment of programs and activities

to assist in mobilizing an appropriate healthcare workforce in the event of a health emergency or natural disaster.

S. 1689

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1689, a bill to state the policy of the United States on international taxation.

S. 1700

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1700, a bill to establish an Office of the Hurricane Katrina Recovery Chief Financial Officer, and for other purposes.

S. 1716

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1716, a bill to provide emergency health care relief for survivors of Hurricane Katrina, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 762

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 762 proposed to S. 1042, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1548

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1548 intended to be proposed to S. 1042, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1730

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1730 proposed to H.R. 2744, a bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 1729. A bill to extend the time during which persons affected by Hurricane Katrina may appeal certain decisions of the Board of Veterans' Appeals that are rendered during the period beginning June 1, 2005, and ending No-

vember 30, 2005; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I want to discuss one of the many potential problems that will face this Nation in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. We have all heard the stories of the displacement of thousands of citizens from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Many of these people have lost everything—their homes and belongings destroyed.

Undoubtedly, some of these people are veterans with claims they wish to appeal from the Board of Veterans' Appeals to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Under current law, a veteran has 120-days to file a notice of appeal to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. If a notice of appeal is not filed within the 120-day window, the veteran essentially loses the right to appeal and might not receive benefits to which the veteran is entitled.

Given the current conditions in the gulf coast region, Congress must conclude that 120 days is not enough time for a veteran to file a notice of appeal. The sheer stress of the situation and the possibility that veterans and their advocates may not have access to the appropriate files makes 120 days for appeals unreasonable.

I have submitted legislation that extends the window for a notice of appeal from 120 days to 240 days for a veteran affected by Hurricane Katrina. This extension will provide appropriate relief to those attempting to rebuild their lives. Veterans should not be additionally burdened during these turbulent times.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation and it is my hope that this legislation will pass the Senate in the near future. I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1729

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR APPEAL OF CERTAIN DECISIONS RENDERED BY BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS.

(a) APPEAL PERIOD.—Notwithstanding section 7266(a) of title 38, United States Code, a Hurricane Katrina-affected person adversely affected by a final decision of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, which is rendered during the period beginning on June 1, 2005, and ending on November 30, 2005, may file a notice of appeal with the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims at any time before the expiration of 240 days after the date on which notice of such decision is mailed pursuant to section 7104(e) of such title.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this Act, the term "Hurricane Katrina-affected person" means a person—

(1) who, as of August 28, 2005, resided in a county identified as being adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina in Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, or Alabama by Federal Disaster Declaration notice 1602, 1603, 1604, or 1605, respectively (as amended), issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; or

(2) whose claim is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs regional

office in New Orleans, Louisiana or Jackson, Mississippi.

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 1730. A bill to establish the Trust Fund Administration to invest in non-Federal Government debt instrument index funds all Federal trust fund revenues transferred to the Federal Government upon the issuance of special Treasury obligations to such trust funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to join Senator VOINOVICH of Ohio in introducing a new Social Security lockbox proposal, the Truth in Budgeting Act of 2005. For years, I have urged my colleagues to stop what I believe is the reckless practice of raiding Social Security trust fund surpluses to pay for other things. By failing to save these surpluses, we are putting future generations in the position of having to borrow trillions of dollars to make good on our Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, and other commitments.

The legislation Senator VOINOVICH and I are introducing today would not only take Washington's hand out of the Social Security cookie jar, it would literally take the cookie jar away. If our bill is adopted, Social Security surpluses and other trust fund surpluses would no longer be used to fund other functions of Government and to mask the size of the Federal deficit. Instead, Social Security payroll taxes would be used to provide future Social Security benefits, as they were always intended.

Our bill would end the practice of spending trust fund surpluses. Instead, it would require those surpluses to be set aside and invested in a broadbased bond index fund that will be drawn on to finance our future obligations. In many ways, this legislation is a truth-in-budgeting bill because it will force us to recognize the true size of our fiscal deficit. It is our hope this will force Congress and the President to work together to address not only our current budget imbalances but our long-term entitlement challenges.

Let me take a few minutes, if I could, to explain why I think this legislation is so important.

Our budget situation has taken a dramatic turn for the worse. Over the last 5 years, we have gone from record surpluses to record deficits. The 2005 deficit is now projected to be \$331 billion, the third worst in U.S. history. That is before Katrina. The increase in debt this year will be far higher.

This is something that I find confuses the American people, confuses my constituents, confuses the media, and perhaps even confuses our colleagues: The advertised deficit—\$331 billion before Katrina—is not the amount the debt will increase by this year. The amount the debt will increase by is much larger, approaching \$589 billion,