

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1264. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law the report of a rule entitled "Rates for Pilotage on the Great Lakes" (RIN1625-AE38) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1265. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone; Fifth Coast Guard District" (RIN1625-AA87) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1266. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Area: Humboldt Bay Bar Channel and Humboldt Bay Entrance Channel, Humboldt Bay, California" (RIN1625-AA11) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1267. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations: Severn River, College Creek, Weems Creek and Carr Creek, Annapolis, MD" (RIN1625-AA08) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1268. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations: Rowing Regattas, Indian Creek, Miami Beach, Florida" (RIN1625-AA08) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1269. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulations (Including 2 Regulations): [CGD08-05-011], [CGD01-05-017]" (RIN1625-AA09) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1270. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulations Governing the Conduct of Open Seasons for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects (Order No. 2005) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1271. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's 2004

Annual Report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1272. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine; NOx Control Program" (FRL No. 7881-2) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1273. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of Arizona, Maricopa County Area; Technical Correction" (FRL No. 7879-3) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1274. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Deadline for Storm Water Discharges for Oil and Gas Activity That Disturbs One to Five Acres" (FRL No. 7882-2) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1275. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tennessee: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision" (FRL No. 7883-5) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 97. A bill to provide for the sale of bentonite in Big Horn County, Wyoming (Rept. No. 109-37).

S. 252. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land in Washoe County, Nevada, to the Board of Regents of the University and Community College System of Nevada (Rept. No. 109-38).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 253. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to the land to the Edward H. McDaniel American Legion Post No. 22 in Pahrump, Nevada, for the construction of a post building and memorial park for use by the American Legion, other veterans' groups, and the local community (Rept. No. 109-39).

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 Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 611. A bill to establish a Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical

Services and a Federal Interagency Committee on emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 612. A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to award the Combat Medical Badge or another combat badge for Army helicopter medical evacuation ambulance (Medevac) pilots and crews; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 613. A bill to establish the Steel Industry National Historic Site in the State of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 614. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit medicare-eligible veterans to receive an out-patient medication benefit, to provide that certain veterans who receive such benefit are not otherwise eligible for medical care and services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DAYTON:

S. 615. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill by establishing an enhanced educational assistance program and by repealing the requirement for reduction in pay for participation in the program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 616. A bill to inform the American public and to protect children from increasing depictions of indecent and gratuitous and excessive violent material on television, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 617. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to carry out the dredging project, Menominee Harbor, Menominee River, Michigan and Wisconsin; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 618. A bill to amend section 1951 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the Hobbs Act), and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. DODD, Mr. DAYTON, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 619. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DEWINE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DODD, and Mr. REED):

S. 620. A bill to reinstate the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 29

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 29, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to limit the misuse of social security numbers, to establish criminal penalties for such misuse, and for other purposes.

S. 109

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 109, a bill entitled the "Pharmaceutical Market Access Act of 2005".

S. 224

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 224, a bill to extend the period for COBRA coverage for victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

S. 288

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 288, a bill to extend Federal funding for operation of State high risk health insurance pools.

S. 328

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 328, a bill to facilitate the sale of United States agricultural products to Cuba, as authorized by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000.

S. 352

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 352, a bill to revise certain requirements for H-2B employers and require submission of information regarding H-2B non-immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 370

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 392, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress, collectively, to the Tuskegee Airmen in recognition of their unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces.

S. 394

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 394, a bill to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of

title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes.

S. 397

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 397, a bill to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages, injunctive or other relief resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

S. 406

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 406, a bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 to improve access and choice for entrepreneurs with small businesses with respect to medical care for their employees.

S. 407

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 414, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to protect the right of Americans to vote through the prevention of voter fraud, and for other purposes.

S. 481

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 481, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the period of eligibility for health care for combat service in the Persian Gulf War or future hostilities from two years to five years after discharge or release.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 489, a bill to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, to limit the duration of Federal consent decrees to which State and local governments are a party, and for other purposes.

S. 498

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 498, a bill to provide for expansion of electricity transmission networks in order to support competitive electricity markets, to ensure reliability of electric service, to modernize regulation and for other purposes.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. MARTINEZ, the names of the Senator from Alabama

(Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 539, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide the protections of habeas corpus for certain incapacitated individuals whose life is in jeopardy, and for other purposes.

S. 550

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 550, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to facilitating the development of microbicides for preventing transmission of HIV and other diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 575

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 575, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable credit for certain education expenses.

S. 586

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 586, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the proper tax treatment of certain disaster mitigation payments.

S. 593

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 593, a bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide that the provisions relating to countervailing duties apply to non-market economy countries.

S. 602

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 602, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to fund breakthroughs in Alzheimer's disease research while providing more help to caregivers and increasing public education about prevention.

S. 610

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 610, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a small agri-biodiesel producer credit and to improve the small ethanol producer credit.

S. CON. RES. 17

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 17, a concurrent resolution calling on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to assess the potential effectiveness of and requirements for a

NATO-enforced no-fly zone in the Darfur region of Sudan.

S. RES. 31

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 31, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the week of August 7, 2005, be designated as "National Health Center Week" in order to raise awareness of health services provided by community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 33

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 33, a resolution urging the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt.

S. RES. 59

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 59, a resolution urging the European Union to maintain its arms export embargo on the People's Republic of China.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 611. A bill to establish a Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services and a Federal Interagency Committee on emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Medical Services Act of 2005. This legislation will help to improve Federal efforts to support community-based emergency medical services across America. I am pleased to be joined by Senator FEINGOLD in this effort.

Today, New York University's Center for Catastrophe Preparedness and Response is releasing an important report, titled "Findings from a National Roundtable to Improve Emergency Medical Service's Homeland Security Preparedness." This report details concerns and recommendations from more than 50 representatives of national EMS organizations and Federal agencies. Their top recommendation was to improve EMS homeland security preparedness through enactment of the very measure we are introducing today. I would note that a former member of my staff, Tim Raducha-Grace drafted this report. Tim continues to be a champion of first responders nationwide, and I congratulate him on this latest achievement.

A comprehensive, coordinated emergency medical services system is essential to assure prompt, quality care to help individuals suffering from automobile crashes to traumatic medical emergencies, to terrorist events. The

emergency medical services system serves as one of the most important parts of our health care safety net.

Unfortunately, for the past 20 years, Federal support for EMS has been both scarce and uncoordinated. At least seven Federal agencies are involved in various aspects of emergency medical services (EMS), though most agencies focus on only one segment of the EMS system and don't effectively coordinate with other agencies.

In 2001, at the request of Senator FEINGOLD and myself, the General Accounting Office cited in its report Emergency Medical Services: Reported needs are Wide-Ranging with a Growing Focus on Lack of Data the need to increase coordination among Federal agencies as they address the needs of regional, State, or local emergency medical services systems.

This legislation would seek to improve one of the few existing efforts to coordinate Federal support for EMS providers. This legislation would formally establish a Federal Interagency Council on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS), and would require the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, to provide organizational and staff support.

This legislation would enhance coordination among the Federal agencies involved with the State, local, tribal and regional emergency medical services and 9-1-1 systems. It would also help to assure Federal agencies coordinate their EMS-related activities and maximize the best utilization of established funding.

Local, State and Federal level emergency medical services systems are extremely diverse and involve numerous different agencies and organizations. To assure a viable, responsive emergency medical services system, Federal agencies need the input and advice of their non-Federal partners and from persons regulating or providing emergency medical services systems at the State and local level.

According to Tom Judge, the Executive Director of Lifeflight of Maine, and Jay Bradshaw, the State of Maine's EMS Director, improved coordination can help strengthen support for a wide range of emergency medical services, from rural EMS providers, to communications between EMS systems, to improving coordination between local EMS providers and their Federal partners.

Another GAO report made it clear that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services needs to better coordinate its reimbursement with the Department of Transportation's matching grants for equipment and vehicles. Many of Maine's communities are at risk of seeing their first ambulance service closures in rural areas, such as in Rumford, ME, due to low reimbursement rates. If DOT targeted assistance to the low reimbursement areas that were at risk of shutting down, we

might be able to maintain service in those areas.

Improved coordination could also strengthen the integration between local providers and Federal agencies. Substantial numbers of our Reserve and National Guard units are being called up for duty, which has hurt search and air rescue capability across Maine. While LifeFlight of Maine is called upon to provide an eye in the sky there is little to no current capability for lifting someone out of the woods when there is no space to land. If the Navy pulls the last part time aircraft out of Brunswick Naval Air station, there wouldn't be any capability at all within a reasonable response timeframe.

I am pleased to have the support of Maine's EMS Director, Jay Bradshaw, Lifeflight of Maine, the American Ambulance Association, the National Association of Maine EMS Directors, and others.

We must ensure that Federal agencies coordinate their efforts to support the dedicated men and women who provide EMS services across our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting their efforts by cosponsoring this legislation.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Maine, Senator COLLINS, today to introduce legislation that will help improve and streamline Federal support for community-based emergency medical services. Our proposal will also provide an avenue for local officials and EMS providers to help Federal agencies improve existing programs and future initiatives.

When someone has been seriously hurt or has an emergency medical problem in this country, the first thing they do is call for an ambulance. And the EMS providers of this country do a great job in responding to these emergencies. All of us have a friend or loved one who has relied on these first responders. These folks rush to assist people in trouble no matter the cause. Their only interest is making sure the patient is medically stable and being taken care of.

Congress has long recognized the important role played by EMS providers. However, Federal support for EMS has been unfocused and uncoordinated, with responsibility scattered among a number of different agencies. In 2001, the General Accounting Office cited the need to increase coordination between the Federal agencies involved with EMS issues but not much progress has been made since that report was issued. The Federal Government doesn't even have a good handle on how much it is spending on EMS or what the needs are for EMS.

A report to be released today by the New York University Center for Catastrophe Preparedness and Response highlights some of the deficiencies in our support for EMS. According to that report, less than 4 percent of the Office of Domestic Preparedness first responder grant funding and 5 percent of