

EC-2073. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amending the Regulations Governing Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Race, Color, National Origin, Handicap, Sex, and Age to Conform to the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987" (RIN0991-AB10) received on May 8, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ENZI, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

Report to accompany S. 250, a bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to improve the Act (Rept. No. 109-65).

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. SNOWE:

S. 984. A bill to amend the Exchange Rates and International Economic Policy Coordination Act of 1988 to clarify the definition of manipulation with respect to currency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 985. A bill to establish kinship navigator programs, to establish kinship guardianship assistance payments for children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 986. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants for the support of full-service community schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 987. A bill to restore safety to Indian women; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. VITTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. AL-LARD):

S. 988. A bill to permanently repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 989. A bill to ensure that a Federal employee who takes leave without pay in order to perform service as a member of the uniformed services or member of the National Guard shall continue to receive pay in an amount which, when taken together with the pay and allowances such individual is receiving for such service, will be no less than the basic pay such individual would then be receiving if no interruption in employment had occurred; read the first time.

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

S. 990. A bill to provide a grant program to support the establishment and operation of

Teachers Professional Development Institutes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 991. A bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to limit the availability of benefits under an employer's nonqualified deferred compensation plans in the event that any of the employer's defined benefit pension plans are subjected to a distress or PBGC termination in connection with bankruptcy reorganization or a conversion to a cash balance plan, to provide appropriate funding restrictions in connection with the maintenance of nonqualified deferred compensation plans, and to provide for appropriate disclosure with respect to nonqualified deferred compensation plans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 992. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to eliminate the consumptive demand exception relating to the importation of goods made with forced labor; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 993. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on amounts received under certain insurance policies in which certain exempt organizations hold an interest; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. OBAMA, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S.J. Res. 18. A joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. BOND, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. Res. 135. A resolution congratulating the National Asphalt Pavement Association on its 50th anniversary and recognizing the contributions of members of the Association to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. Con. Res. 31. A concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of H.R. 1268; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 21

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 21, a bill to provide for homeland security grant coordination and simplification, and for other purposes.

S. 45

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 45, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to lift the patient limitation on prescribing drug addiction treatments by medical practitioners in group practices, and for other purposes.

S. 151

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

151, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require an annual plan on outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 224

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) 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. 260

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore, enhance, and manage private land to improve fish and wildlife habitats through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to hold the current regime in Iran accountable for its threatening behavior and to support a transition to democracy in Iran.

S. 337

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) 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 Reservists and their families, and for other purposes.

S. 347

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 347, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act and title III of the Public Health Service Act to improve access to information about individuals' health care operations and legal rights for care near the end of life, to promote advance care planning and decision-making so that individuals' wishes are known should they become unable to speak for themselves, to engage health care providers in disseminating information about and assisting in the preparation of advance directives, which include living wills and durable powers of attorney for health care, and for other purposes.

S. 365

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 365, a bill to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign centers and programs for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes.

S. 372

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 372, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that a deduction equal to fair market value shall be allowed for charitable contributions of literacy, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions created by the donor.

S. 380

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 380, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a State family support grant program to end the practice of parents giving legal custody of their seriously emotionally disturbed children to State agencies for the purpose of obtaining mental health services for those children.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, his name 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. 441

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 441, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the classification of a motor-sports entertainment complex.

S. 467

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 467, a bill to extend the applicability of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, 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. 515

At the request of Mr. BYRD, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 515, a bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to increase the maximum Federal share of the costs of State programs under the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, and for other purposes.

S. 520

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator

from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) were added as cosponsors of S. 520, a bill to limit the jurisdiction of Federal courts in certain cases and promote federalism.

S. 558

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) were added as cosponsors of S. 558, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt.

S. 576

At the request of Mr. BYRD, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 576, a bill to restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros.

S. 601

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 601, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include combat pay in determining an allowable contribution to an individual retirement plan.

S. 603

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 603, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide certain substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 619

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 619, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 621

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 621, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for the depreciation of certain leasehold improvements.

S. 627

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from

Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 627, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the research credit, to increase the rates of the alternative incremental credit, and to provide an alternative simplified credit for qualified research expenses.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) 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. 647

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 647, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize physical therapists to evaluate and treat medicare beneficiaries without a requirement for a physician referral, and for other purposes.

S. 650

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 650, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to increase production and use of renewable fuel and to increase the energy independence of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 675

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 675, a bill to reward the hard work and risk of individuals who choose to live in and help preserve America's small, rural towns, and for other purposes.

S. 722

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 722, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level.

S. 737

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 737, a bill to amend the USA PATRIOT ACT to place reasonable limitations on the use of surveillance and the issuance of search warrants, and for other purposes.

S. 751

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 751, a bill to require Federal agencies, and persons engaged in interstate commerce, in possession of data containing personal information, to disclose any unauthorized acquisition of such information.

S. 770

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland

(Mr. SARBANES) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 770, a bill to amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to reauthorize and improve that Act.

S. 784

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 784, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 792

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 792, a bill to establish a National sex offender registration database, and for other purposes.

S. 806

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 806, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a traumatic injury protection rider to servicemembers insured under section 1967(a)(1) of such title.

S. 811

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) were added as cosponsors of S. 811, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

S. 843

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 843, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to combat autism through research, screening, intervention and education.

S. 859

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 859, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an income tax credit for the provision of homeownership and community development, and for other purposes.

S. 936

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 936, a bill to ensure privacy for e-mail communications.

S. 962

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 962, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit to holders of qualified bonds issued to finance certain energy projects, and for other purposes.

S. 967

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 967, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure that prepackaged news stories contain announcements that inform viewers that the information within was provided by the United States Government, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 33

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 33, a resolution urging the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 984. A bill to amend the Exchange Rates and International Economic Policy Coordination Act of 1988 to clarify the definition of manipulation with respect to currency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the issue of currency policies and to offer a bill, the Fair Currency Practices Act of 2005, that will address key concerns regarding the Treasury Department's statutory review and reporting requirements on currency manipulation. In particular, this bill strengthens Treasury's hand in addressing currency manipulation, including the current practices of countries such as China.

Through the practice of pegging its currency to the dollar, China artificially maintains the yuan, at 8.28 per dollar. While economists differ over the extent that China's currency is undervalued, it is often estimated to be undervalued by as much as fifteen to forty percent, rendering Chinese manufactured goods cheaper in the U.S.—and U.S. manufactured goods more expensive in China.

China's deliberate and unfair currency practices have contributed to our Nation's trade deficit with China, reaching a record \$162 billion last year. The yuan's undervaluation has had a profound impact on our Nation's manufacturing sector—particularly on U.S. manufacturing employment.

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Co-Chair of the Senate Task Force on Manufacturing, and a Senator from a State with a rich history in manufacturing, I am keenly aware of this issue's importance. Indeed, our manufacturers—who are integral to our economic security and national defense—unjustifiably struggle to compete with countries that disregard their international obligations.

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission released a report today, which focuses on China's exchange rate problem. In the report,

the Commission notes that foreign exchange markets are sending clear signals that China should revalue its yuan, and that in recent years all major currencies have adjusted upward with the exception of China's. The Commission explains that an appreciation of foreign currencies is needed to help correct the U.S. current account deficit.

In the report, the Commission discusses the value of improving the process by which the Treasury Department assesses and reports upon the issue of foreign countries' currency manipulation. The legislation that I offer today, which is cosponsored by Senator DOLE, makes substantial improvements to that process.

Chair MANZULLO, my counterpart in the House of Representatives is offering this bill today in the House. I thank him for his leadership on issues affecting our Nation's small businesses, and particularly for his efforts on behalf of our Nation's manufacturers.

Specifically, the legislation amends the Exchange Rates and Economic Policy Coordination Act of 1988, to clarify that a country is manipulating its currency if it is engaged in "protracted large-scale intervention in one direction in the exchange market."

The legislation also amends the 1988 Act to eliminate the necessity that a country have both a material global current account surplus and a significant bilateral trade surplus with the United States, before the Secretary of the Treasury is required to enter into negotiations with the offending country to end its unfair practices. The change requires such negotiations if there is either a material global current account surplus or a significant bilateral trade surplus with the United States.

Currently, the Treasury Department, the International Monetary Fund, and others rely largely upon suspect Chinese data in determining China's trade balance with other countries. The legislation's final provision instructs the Treasury Department to undertake an exercise examining China's trade surplus. The investigation would include an analysis of why China's reported trade surplus with the U.S. and other countries differs from that reported by China's trading partners. The legislation requires that the Treasury Department submit a report of its investigation to Congress.

Representative MANZULLO and I will continue to collaborate on addressing unfair currency practices by offending countries. We are both well aware of the negative effects these practices have on our Nation's small businesses. One of our combined efforts commissioned a General Accounting Office study which examined issues related to foreign government manipulation of world currency markets. That study is expected to be released soon.

As in the past, I will continue to strive to draw greater attention to the effects of China's currency practices