

EC-6856. A communication from the Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, the report of draft legislation to authorize appropriations for the Merit Systems Protection Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6857. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-09" (FAC Case 2005-09) received on May 15, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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. ENZI (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BYRD, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 2803. A bill to amend the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 to improve the safety of mines and mining; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. 2804. A bill to extend the duty suspension on polysiloxane; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. 2805. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,6-Di-tert-butylphenol; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. 2806. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on sodium hypophosphite; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. 2807. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Cyanuric chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. 2808. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on textured rolled glass sheets; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. 2809. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4,4'-Diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulfonic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. KYL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. TALENT, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CONRAD, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2810. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate months in 2006 from the calculation of any late enrollment penalty under the Medicare part D prescription drug program and to provide for additional funding for State health insurance counseling program and area agencies on aging, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 2811. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the annual, coordinated election period under the Medicare part D prescription drug program through all of 2006 and to provide for a refund of excess premiums paid during 2006, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAYTON:

S. 2812. A bill to amend the Petroleum Marketing Practices Act to prohibit restric-

tions on the installation of renewable fuel pumps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2813. A bill for the relief of Claudia Marquez Rico; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 2814. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for support of funeral ceremonies for veterans provided by details that consist solely of members of veterans organizations and other organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DODD:

S. 2815. A bill to establish the Commission on Economic Indicators to conduct a study and submit a report containing recommendations concerning the appropriateness and accuracy of the methodology, calculations, and reporting used by the Government relating to certain economic indicators; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 2816. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an income tax credit for the manufacture of flexible fuel motor vehicles and to extend and increase the income tax credit for alternative fuel refueling property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 2817. A bill to promote renewable fuel and energy security of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 480. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the Chemical Weapons Convention; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. Res. 481. A resolution relative to the death of Jacob Chic Hecht, former United States Senator for the State of Nevada; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 647

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) 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. 886

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 886, a bill to eliminate the annual operating deficit and maintenance backlog in the national parks, and for other purposes.

S. 914

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 914, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a competitive grant program to build capacity in veterinary medical education and expand the workforce of veterinarians engaged in public health practice and biomedical research.

S. 1104

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1104, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to cover certain legal immigrants under the medicaid and State children's health insurance programs.

S. 1112

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) 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. 1263

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1263, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to establish eligibility requirements for business concerns to receive awards under the Small Business Innovation Research Program.

S. 1354

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1354, a bill to establish commissions to review the facts and circumstances surrounding injustices suffered by European Americans, European Latin Americans, and Jewish refugees during World War II.

S. 1479

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1479, a bill to provide for the expansion of Federal efforts concerning the prevention, education, treatment, and research activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, including the establishment of a Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to establish a joint energy cooperation program within the Department of Energy to fund eligible ventures between United States and Israeli businesses and academic persons in the national interest, and for other purposes.

S. 2005

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2005, a bill to provide for the reviewing, updating, and maintenance of National Flood Insurance Program rate maps, and for other purposes.

S. 2010

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2010, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the Social Security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 2140

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2140, a bill to enhance protection of children from sexual exploitation by strengthening section 2257 of title 18, United States Code, requiring producers of sexually explicit material to keep and permit inspection of records regarding the age of performers, and for other purposes.

S. 2178

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2178, a bill to make the stealing and selling of telephone records a criminal offense.

S. 2392

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2392, a bill to promote the empowerment of women in Afghanistan.

S. 2461

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2461, a bill to prohibit United States assistance to develop or promote any rail connections or railway-related connections that traverse or connect Baku, Azerbaijan, Tbilisi, Georgia, and Kars, Turkey, and that specifically exclude cities in Armenia.

S. 2480

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2480, a bill to amend the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act with respect to the availability of contact lenses.

S. 2556

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2556, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to reform of executive compensation in corporate bankruptcies.

S. 2566

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2566, a bill to provide for coordination of proliferation interdiction activities and conventional arms disarmament, and for other purposes.

S. 2614

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Missouri

(Mr. TALENT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2614, a bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to establish a program to provide reimbursement for the installation of alternative energy refueling systems.

S. 2629

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2629, a bill to improve the tracking of stolen firearms and firearms used in a crime, to allow more frequent inspections of gun dealers to ensure compliance with Federal gun law, to enhance the penalties for gun trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 2658

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2658, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 2682

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2682, a bill to exclude from admission to the United States aliens who have made investments directly and significantly contributing to the enhancement of the ability of Cuba to develop its petroleum resources, and for other purposes.

S. 2703

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2703, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

S. 2725

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 2725, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal Minimum wage and to ensure that increases in the Federal minimum wage keep pace with any pay adjustments for Members of Congress.

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires (except during time of war and subject to suspension by Congress) that the total amount of money expended by the United States during any fiscal year not exceed the amount of certain revenue received by the United States during such fiscal year and not exceed 20 per centum of the gross national product of the United States during the previous calendar year.

S. RES. 236

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 236, a resolution recognizing the need to pursue research into the causes, a treatment, and an eventual cure for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, supporting the goals and ideals of National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 320

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 320, a resolution calling for the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide.

S. RES. 420

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 420, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that effective treatment and access to care for individuals with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis should be improved.

S. RES. 462

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 462, a resolution designating June 8, 2006, as the day of a National Vigil for Lost Promise.

S. RES. 469

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 469, a resolution condemning the April 25, 2006, beating and intimidation of Cuban dissident Martha Beatriz Roque.

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 469, *supra*.

AMENDMENT NO. 3960

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3960 intended to be proposed to S. 2611, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3961

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3961 proposed to S. 2611, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

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

amendment No. 3961 proposed to S. 2611, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3961 proposed to S. 2611, *supra*.

AMENDMENT NO. 3966

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3966 intended to be proposed to S. 2611, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3968

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3968 intended to be proposed to S. 2611, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3981

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3981 proposed to S. 2611, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3985

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3985 intended to be proposed to S. 2611, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BYRD, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 2803. A bill to amend the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 to improve the safety of mines and mining; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, as the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions I am pleased to announce today the introduction of comprehensive legislation designed to make our Nation's mines and miners safer—the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006, the MINER Act. I am particularly pleased to note that the MINER Act is the product of a truly bipartisan effort that includes Senator KENNEDY, the committee's ranking member, Senators ISAKSON and MURRAY, the chair and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, and Senators ROCKEFELLER and BYRD. They have all worked tirelessly to make this bill a reality, and I am grateful for their leadership on this issue and their co-sponsorship of the MINER Act.

Mining, and coal mining in particular, is vital to our national and

local economies, and to our national energy security. No aspect of mining is more important than protecting the health and safety of those whose hard work fuels the industry.

This year our Nation has experienced tragic losses in the coal mines of West Virginia. Following the accident at the Sago mine, Senators ISAKSON, KENNEDY, ROCKEFELLER, and I traveled to West Virginia to meet with the families of those miners whose lives were lost. We were all deeply moved by that experience, and committed to do our best to ensure that such tragedies will not be repeated. To further that commitment, we have sought the views of experts and stakeholders on a wide range of mine safety issues and have conducted hearings and roundtables on such issues as mine safety technology. In the MINER Act, we have done much to reach our common goal of safeguarding the lives of all those who work in our Nation's mines.

The legislation we introduce today addresses the issue of mine safety in a variety of ways. First, the MINER Act would require the development of mine-specific emergency response plans that incorporate safety and technology provisions designed to enhance miner safety. In the area of technology, in particular, the MINER Act recognizes that as safety technology evolves, so, too, must our approach. Thus, the plans that are initially developed must be periodically modified to reflect such changes.

Second, the MINER Act recognizes the critical role of mine rescue teams, and those who serve on them, in enhancing the safety of miners. The legislation directs the Secretary of Labor to issue regulations that will make new provisions for mine rescue teams, and it creates liability protection for those who serve on those teams and their employers.

Third, the MINER Act recognizes that in emergencies the ability to craft a prompt response is dependent upon prompt notification. Thus, the MINER Act provides that in the case of serious life-threatening accidents notification must be made to Federal Mine Safety officials within 15 minutes.

Fourth, the legislation recognizes that despite all efforts, accidents may occur in the future, and that in those instances MSHA should be prepared to provide assistance to and communicate with the families of those affected. Accordingly, the MINER Act requires MSHA to establish a policy to meet both of these objectives.

Fifth, the legislation recognizes the key role of technology in improving mine safety and the key role of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health in advancing such technological development. The MINER Act establishes an Office of Mine Safety within NIOSH, a NIOSH-administered grant and contract program designed to foster the development and manufacture of new mine safety equipment, and a NIOSH-chaired interagency

working group designed to facilitate the transfer of technology that may be adaptable to mine usage from such other Federal sources as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, the Department of Defense. The bill also contains provisions to streamline the testing of new technologies.

Sixth, the MINER Act recognizes there are some areas regarding technology and engineering and mining practice about which uncertainty remains. The MINER Act recognizes that such issues are better addressed with the informed assistance of experts. Thus, the MINER Act creates a technical study panel to review the belt air issue and directs further NIOSH study and testing regarding refuge chambers. It also requires the Secretary to utilize the regulatory process to issue final regulations regarding the strength of seals used in abandoned mining sections. These directives do not prejudice the issues or dictate any result or action. They do, however, provide an important means of developing a body of expert opinion with regard to these issues.

Seventh, throughout the development of this legislation my long-held view that the vast majority of mine operators take their safety responsibilities with great seriousness has been reinforced. The conscientious efforts of mine operators throughout the country have been the principal reason behind our continual improvement in mine safety over the years. We must recognize this essential fact even as we must also recognize that there are a handful of operators who do not fall in this camp. In the instance of these "bad actors," the MINER Act provides tools MSHA can use to more readily deal with those who fail to pay civil penalties. The MINER Act codifies a tenfold increase in the available criminal penalties, and it creates an increased maximum for flagrant violators in line with the administration's proposal and creates minimum penalties for the most serious types of infractions.

Lastly, the legislation recognizes that training and education play a critical role in the effort to make mines and miners safer. Therefore, the legislation contains scholarship provisions to address the anticipated shortages of trained miners and MSHA personnel as well as fostering the skills of those who will work on the next generation of mine safety technology. It also contains provisions for the establishment of a program to provide a full range of mine safety training grants.

These steps, when taken together, will help make our nation's mines a safer workplace today and in years to come.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, it is my honor today to join with several of my distinguished colleagues to introduce S. 2803, the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response,