

EC-7371. 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 Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Kentucky; Redesignation of the Boyd County SO₂ Non-attainment Area; Correction" (FRL No. 8187-4) received on June 22, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7372. 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 Implementation Plans; State of Missouri" (FRL No. 8189-2) received on June 22, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7373. 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 "Oregon: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision" (FRL No. 8188-8) received on June 18, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7374. 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 "Protections for Subjects in Human Research; Nursing Women" (FRL No. 8071-6) received on June 22, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7375. A communication from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2005 management report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7376. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2005 management report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7377. A communication from Assistant Secretary, Investment Management/Office of Regulatory Policy, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fund of Funds Investments" (RIN 3235-AJ17) received on June 22, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SHELBY, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, without amendment:

S. 3589. An original bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, to restore the financial solvency of the flood insurance fund, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-271).

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.

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 3569. A bill to implement the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on Finance.

*Henry M. Paulson, Jr., of New York, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

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

*Jonann E. Chiles, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2008.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. CARPER:

S. 3587. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on certain footwear with coated or laminated textile fabrics; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3588. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize capitation grants to increase the number of nursing faculty and students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 3589. An original bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, to restore the financial solvency of the flood insurance fund, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3590. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to delay the effective date of the amendments made by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requiring documentation evidencing citizenship or nationality as a condition for receipt of medical assistance under the Medicaid program; read the first time.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. CHAFEE, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. OBAMA):

S. 3591. A bill to improve efficiency in the Federal Government through the use of high-performance green buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 3592. A bill to appropriate \$160,500,000 for the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve security for personal data of veterans and other persons held by the Department of Veterans Affairs and to provide remedial assistance to veterans and other persons who have had personal data stolen from the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DODD, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 3593. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide additional support to students; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 3594. A bill to help protect the public against the threat of attacks targeting nuclear power plants; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3595. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the United States Emergency Management Authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Con. Res. 107. A concurrent resolution congratulating Donald Andrew Hall for his selection by the Librarian of Congress as the 14th Poet Laureate of the United States and for his great accomplishments in prose and essays focusing on New England rural living, baseball, and how work conveys meaning to ordinary life; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 330

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 330, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require a voter-verified permanent record or hardcopy under title III of such Act, and for other purposes.

S. 472

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 472, a bill to criminalize Internet scams involving fraudulently obtaining personal information, commonly known as phishing.

S. 932

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 932, a bill to provide for paid sick leave to ensure that Americans can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

S. 1085

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1085, a bill to provide for paid sick leave to ensure that Americans can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

S. 1321

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1321, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on telephone and other communications.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr.

CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1603

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1603, a bill to establish a National Preferred Lender Program, facilitate the delivery of financial assistance to small businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1687

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1687, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide waivers relating to grants for preventive health measures with respect to breast and cervical cancers.

S. 1864

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1864, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain farming business machinery and equipment as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 1934

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1934, a bill to reauthorize the grant program of the Department of Justice for reentry of offenders into the community, to establish a task force on Federal programs and activities relating to the reentry of offenders into the community, and for other purposes.

S. 2388

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2388, a bill to establish a National Commission on the Infrastructure of the United States.

S. 2566

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2566, a bill to provide for coordination of proliferation interdiction activities and conventional arms disarmament, and for other purposes.

S. 2585

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2585, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit military death gratuities to be contributed to certain tax-favored accounts.

S. 2644

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2644, a bill to harmonize rate setting standards for copyright licenses under sections 112 and 114 of title 17, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2663

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2663, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2918

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2918, a bill to provide access to newspapers for blind or other persons with disabilities.

S. 3500

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3500, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas to health care providers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 3519

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3519, a bill to reform the State inspection of meat and poultry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3521

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3521, a bill to establish a new budget process to create a comprehensive plan to rein in spending, reduce the deficit, and regain control of the Federal budget process.

S. CON. RES. 96

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 96, a concurrent resolution to commemorate, celebrate, and reaffirm the national motto of the United States on the 50th anniversary of its formal adoption.

S. RES. 507

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 507, a resolution designating the week of November 5 through November 11, 2006, as "National Veterans Awareness Week" to emphasize the need to develop educational programs regarding the contributions of veterans to the country.

S. RES. 508

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 508, a resolution designating October 20, 2006 as "National Mammography Day".

S. RES. 513

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 513, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the week beginning September 10, 2006, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 3588. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize capitation grants to increase the number of nursing faculty and students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would request the Chair to inform me when I have used 6 minutes of the 10 minutes I have requested.

We have a lot of bipartisan battles in the Senate. I am going to try to bring an issue to the consideration of the Senate and to their attention which I believe is very bipartisan. It affects the State of Alaska, the State of North Dakota, the State of Illinois, and the State of Maine. It affects us all. What I am speaking to is the shortage of nurses in America.

We face a critical shortage of nurses. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services looked at all of the licensed nurses and found that in the year 2000, this country was 110,000 nurses short of what was necessary to provide adequate health care. By 2005, the shortage had doubled to 219,000 nurses. By 2020, we will be more than 1 million nurses short of what is necessary to maintain quality health care in America.

To avoid this shortage which the Department of Health and Human Services projects, we have to substantially increase the number of nursing graduates and those entering the workforce each year. Just to replace the nurses who are retiring, we need to increase student enrollment by at least 40 percent. The baseline supply for nurses—as you can see on this chart—in our country, for the current time and through the year 2020, is on a steady downward flow, whereas demand goes up dramatically. If we had 90 percent more nursing graduates, we still would not reach the projected demand in America as baby boomers reach the point where they need help and many others need quality nursing.

The problem is that there are not enough teachers at schools of nursing. That is what it comes down to. Last year, nursing schools across America denied admission to 35,000 qualified students because there just weren't enough teachers.

In my home State of Illinois, schools of nursing are denying qualified students admittance because of the shortage of teachers. This is an indication