

EC-3055. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the Attorney Advisor Program" (RIN0960-AG49) received on September 5, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3056. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Extension of Attorney Fee Payment System to Title XVI; 5-Year Demonstration Project Extending Fee Withholding and Payment Procedures to Eligible Non-Attorney Representatives; Definition of Past-due Benefits; and Assessment for Fee Payment Services" (RIN0960-AG35) received on September 5, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3057. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to post-liberation Iraq covering the period of June 15, 2007, through August 15, 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3058. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, correspondence from the Speaker of the National Assembly of the State of Kuwait; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 134. A resolution designating September 2007 as "Adopt a School Library Month".

S. Res. 282. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week to raise public awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease and to foster understanding of the impact polycystic kidney disease has on patients and future generations of their families.

S. Res. 288. A resolution designating September 2007 as "National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month".

S. Res. 292. A resolution designating the week beginning September 9, 2007, as "National Assisted Living Week".

S. Res. 301. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School, one of the most significant events in the American civil rights movement.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Richard A. Jones, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

Sharon Aycock, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

Michael David Credo, of Louisiana, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

Esteban Soto III, of Maryland, to be United States Marshal for the District of Puerto Rico for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 2020. A bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2010, to rename the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 as "The Tropical Forest and Coral Conservation Act of 2007", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. VITTER, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2021. A bill to provide \$50,000,000,000 in new transportation infrastructure funding through bonding to empower States and local governments to complete significant infrastructure projects across all modes of transportation, including roads, bridges, rail and transit systems, ports, and inland waterways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 2022. A bill to prohibit the closure or relocation of any county office of the Farm Service Agency until at least one year after the enactment of an Act to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs for fiscal years after 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BAYH (for himself and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 2023. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 805 Main Street in Ferdinand, Indiana, as the "Staff Sergeant David L. Nord Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 2024. A bill to provide for interregional primary elections and caucuses for the selection of delegates to political party Presidential nominating conventions; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. AKAKA (by request):

S. 2025. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the eligibility criteria for special monthly pension; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. AKAKA (by request):

S. 2026. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, chapter 11, to clarify that an award of benefits based on a regulatory presumption established pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 1116 after September 30, 2002, cannot be made effective earlier than the date the regulatory presumption was established; and to clarify that the presumption of herbicide exposure provided by 38 U.S.C. section 1116(f) applies only to veterans who served in Vietnam on land or on Vietnam's inland waterways and not to those who served only in waters offshore or in airspace above; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. AKAKA (by request):

S. 2027. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, chapter 5, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and promote programs and activities honoring veterans and to authorize the next of kin of a deceased veteran to wear the veteran's awards and decorations under certain circumstances; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2028. A bill to require the State of Louisiana to match Federal funding to fully ad-

dress the Road Home Program shortfall; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2029. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for transparency in the relationship between physicians and manufacturers of drugs, devices, or medical supplies for which payment is made under Medicare, Medicaid, or SCHIP; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. OBAMA (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD)):

S. 2030. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require reporting relating to bundled contributions made by persons other than registered lobbyists; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. DOLE (for herself and Mr. BURR):

S. Res. 309. A resolution commending the Appalachian State University Mountaineers of Boone, North Carolina, for pulling off one of the greatest upsets in college football history; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 37

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 37, a bill to enhance the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, to assure protection of public health safety, to ensure the territorial integrity and security of the repository at Yucca Mountain, and for other purposes.

S. 185

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to restore habeas corpus for those detained by the United States.

S. 453

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 453, a bill to prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections.

S. 507

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 507, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for reimbursement of certified midwife services and to provide for more equitable reimbursement rates for certified nurse-midwife services.

S. 573

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 573, a bill to amend the Federal

Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

S. 584

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 584, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rehabilitation credit and the low-income housing credit.

S. 597

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 597, a bill to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years.

S. 625

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 625, a bill to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products.

S. 662

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 662, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate resources at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Brunswick, Maine, to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the site as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 691

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the benefits under the Medicare program for beneficiaries with kidney disease, and for other purposes.

S. 771

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 771, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to improve the nutrition and health of school children by updating the definition of "food of minimal nutritional value" to conform to current nutrition science and to protect the Federal investment in the national school lunch and breakfast programs.

S. 772

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 772, a bill to amend the Federal antitrust laws to provide expanded coverage and to eliminate exemptions from such laws that are contrary to the public interest with respect to railroads.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Con-

necticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 803, a bill to repeal a provision enacted to end Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 805, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa in the effort to achieve internationally recognized goals in the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other major diseases and the reduction of maternal and child mortality by improving human health care capacity and improving retention of medical health professionals in sub-Saharan Africa, and for other purposes.

S. 860

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 860, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States the option to provide Medicaid coverage for low-income individuals infected with HIV.

S. 970

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to impose sanctions on Iran and on other countries for assisting Iran in developing a nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1035, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reduce fraud and abuse in certain visa programs for aliens working temporarily in the United States.

S. 1090

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1090, a bill to amend the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 to assist the neediest of senior citizens by modifying the eligibility criteria for supplemental foods provided under the commodity supplemental food program to take into account the extraordinarily high out-of-pocket medical expenses that senior citizens pay, and for other purposes.

S. 1175

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1175, a bill to end the use of child soldiers in hostilities around the world, and for other purposes.

S. 1233

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1233, a bill to provide and

enhance intervention, rehabilitative treatment, and services to veterans with traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes.

S. 1332

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and violence to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

S. 1338

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1338, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a two-year moratorium on certain Medicare physician payment reductions for imaging services.

S. 1459

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1459, a bill to strengthen the Nation's research efforts to identify the causes and cure of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, expand psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis data collection, study access to and quality of care for people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to revise and extend provisions under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act.

S. 1553

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1553, a bill to provide additional assistance to combat HIV/AIDS among young people, and for other purposes.

S. 1621

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1621, 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. 1627

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1627, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and expand the benefits for businesses operating in empowerment zones, enterprise communities, or renewal communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1638

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1638, a bill to adjust the salaries of Federal justices and judges, and for other purposes.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1661, a bill to communicate United States travel policies and improve marketing and other activities designed to increase travel in the United States from abroad.

S. 1731

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1731, a bill to provide for the continuing review of unauthorized Federal programs and agencies and to establish a bipartisan commission for the purposes of improving oversight and eliminating wasteful Government spending.

S. 1760

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1760, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Healthy Start Initiative.

S. 1833

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1833, a bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to require third-party verification of compliance of children's products with consumer product safety standards promulgated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission and for other purposes.

S. 1924

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1924, a bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty.

S. 1944

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1944, a bill to provide justice for victims of state-sponsored terrorism.

S. 1951

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1951, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure that individuals eligible for medical assistance under the Medicaid program continue to have access to prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 1958

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1958, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure and foster continued patient quality of care by establishing facility and patient criteria for long-term care hospitals and related improvements under the Medicare program.

S. 1964

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 1964, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish new separate fee schedule areas for physicians' services in States with multiple fee schedule areas to improve Medicare physician geographic payment accuracy, and for other purposes.

S. 2017

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2017, a bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide for national energy efficiency standards for general service incandescent lamps, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2664

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2664 proposed to H.R. 2642, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2673

At the request of Mr. WEBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2673 proposed to H.R. 2642, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. VITTER, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2021. A bill to provide \$50,000,000,000 in new transportation infrastructure funding through bonding to empower States and local governments to complete significant infrastructure projects across all modes of transportation, including roads, bridges, rail and transit systems, ports, and inland waterways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, despite the record transportation funding that Congress provided in the 2005 Transportation Reauthorization bill, SAFETEA-LU, our Nation's infrastructure is being stressed to the breaking point. Our ports and rail lines are at or near capacity. Our highways are clogged. The tragedy in Minneapolis last month showed the entire country that our bridges are in desperate need of repair.

The American Society of Civil Engineers has noted that over the next 5 years \$1.6 trillion in investment is needed from all levels of government to keep our Nation's current transportation system up to date. To put that into perspective, our Nation's infrastructure needs roughly six times as

much funding as was included in SAFETEA-LU.

The question is "Where do we find the transportation funding that our country needs to meet our transportation and our economic needs?"

Senator THUNE's and my answer is to invest in America.

Everyone agrees that our country's infrastructure needs are tremendous. Everyone agrees that our country needs to invest more in transportation. What Congress hasn't been able to agree on is where to find the money. Gas taxes just don't generate enough revenues to even begin to satisfy highway and transit needs.

In this budget climate, pots of extra Federal money are not just sitting around waiting to be used, and States surely don't have any extra money either. Most have budget deficits. All the conventional funding sources are coming up short, so Senator THUNE and I think it is time to think outside the box and outside the trust funds. The Federal Government is about the only entity in the country that does not borrow money for capital projects, but in this climate it should and it must.

Senator THUNE and I have come up with a creative approach to provide \$50 billion of additional new funding for transportation projects our country desperately needs by issuing Build America Bonds. Our country's needs are so great that we think funding should be made available that is in addition to SAFETEA-LU.

Our legislation is not a substitute for fixing the transportation trust fund. We still must address that problem, and next year we must start on a new transportation bill. Our legislation is meant to provide extra money on top of regular transportation funding.

This money could not be earmarked by Congress. This will not fund any Senator's pet project. This money will be controlled by the States, and used for the projects they think are most critical.

An annual amount of approximately \$500 million from trade fees will be placed in an Infrastructure Finance Account and invested for the life of the bonds, which will generate more than enough to repay the entire \$50 billion principal amount.

That means the only cost to the Government is the "interest portion" on the bonds, which is in the form of tax credits. With this funding mechanism, as little as \$2 billion a year could generate the \$50 billion in funding for transportation infrastructure. I call that a very smart investment in our country's infrastructure.

This investment is badly needed.

Citizens stuck in traffic choking on exhaust need relief. Truckers who need to detour miles out of their way to avoid weight-limited bridges need relief. As our economy struggles with stagnating wages, the loss of even basic health benefits for many, and a mortgage market that is spiraling downward, the American worker needs relief.