

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2246. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend eligibility for Federal TRIO programs to members of the reserve components serving on active duty in support of contingency operations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 2247. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the depreciation classification of motorsports entertainment complexes; read the first time.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 2248. An original bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act, and for other purposes; from the Select Committee on Intelligence; placed on the calendar.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2249. A bill to establish the Northern Border Economic Development Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRAPO:

S. 2250. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize payments for ambulatory surgical centers under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 2251. A bill to ensure that individual homeowners that were not previously required to purchase flood insurance that are now required to do so because of the updating of flood insurance program rate maps receive a discount for the purchase of such insurance; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban 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. BIDEN (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. TESTER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DODD, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BURR):

S. Res. 357. A bill designating the week of November 11 through November 17, 2007, as “National Veterans Awareness Week” to emphasize the need to develop educational programs regarding the contributions of veterans to the country; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 702

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 702, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to State courts to develop and implement State courts interpreter programs.

S. 790

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 790, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to permit the simplified summer food programs to be carried out in all States and by all service institutions.

S. 1160

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1160, a bill to ensure an abundant and affordable supply of highly nutritious fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops for American consumers and international markets by enhancing the competitiveness of United States-grown specialty crops.

S. 1299

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1299, a bill to establish on behalf of consumers a fiduciary duty and other standards of care for mortgage brokers and originators, and to establish standards to assess a consumer's ability to repay, and for other purposes.

S. 1382

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1382, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1512

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1512, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to expand Federal eligibility for children in foster care who have attained age 18.

S. 1734

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1734, a bill to provide for prostate cancer imaging research and education.

S. 2156

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2156, a bill to authorize and facilitate the improvement of water management by the Bureau of Reclamation, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Energy to increase the acquisition and analysis of water resources for irrigation, hydroelectric power, municipal, and environmental uses, and for other purposes.

S. 2227

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2227, a bill to provide grants to States to ensure that all students in the middle grades are taught an academically rigorous curriculum with effective supports so that students com-

plete the middle grades prepared for success in high school and postsecondary endeavors, to improve State and district policies and programs relating to the academic achievement of students in the middle grades, to develop and implement effective middle school models for struggling students, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 22

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 22, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services within the Department of Health and Human Services relating to Medicare coverage for the use of erythropoiesis stimulating agents in cancer and related neoplastic conditions.

S. RES. 346

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 346, a resolution expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the devastating thunderstorms that caused severe flooding during August 2007 in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 2251. A bill ensure that individual homeowners that were not previously required to purchase flood insurance that are now required to do so because of the updating of flood insurance program rate maps receive a discount for the purchase of such insurance; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself and Senators LOTT and COCHRAN to introduce legislation that will help make flood insurance more affordable for working families across the country.

This bill makes a substantial change to the National Flood Insurance Program by reducing flood insurance premiums for those living near recently decertified levees.

This is critical in California and the Gulf States, where several levees no longer meet national certification standards.

Here is how the bill works: If a national flood map update results in the decertification of a levee, those living nearby will be required to purchase flood insurance. This legislation makes those now required to pay flood insurance eligible for a 50 percent discount on premiums for 5 years. Levee decertification will force some homeowners to pay upwards of \$1,000 per year for new flood insurance policies from the National Flood Insurance Program; according to FEMA premium estimates for high-risk residential areas.

This bill will save most families in a newly zoned high-risk residential area more than \$500 each year, or roughly \$40 each month.

The goal of the 5-year reprieve is to give the responsible agencies time to bring the levees up to standard.

When the levees are strong again, the homeowners will no longer be required to purchase flood insurance. The financial burden would be lifted.

This grace period helps those who need it most and softens the harsh and expensive consequences that accompany FEMA's Map Modification process.

Additionally, the 5-year limit allows this legislation to accomplish these objectives in a manner that is fiscally responsible.

Our colleagues in the House recently passed legislation H.R. 3121, that seeks to ensure the continued viability of the National Flood Insurance Program.

My colleague in the House of Representatives, Congressman DENNIS CARDOZA, authored an amendment similar to this legislation, which passed by voice vote and is now included in the House's proposed changes.

The House bill encourages broader participation, increases financial accountability, and eliminates unnecessary rate subsidies.

Additionally, the bill makes the updating and modernization of flood maps a priority, and requires a thorough review of the Nation's flood protection systems.

Under the new requirements, FEMA will work in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers and local communities to inventory their flood control systems and reassess their levels of protection.

However, as FEMA remaps and reexamines flood threats, many households will find that they are no longer as safe as they thought.

In California alone there are more than 136 communities that contain at least one levee that will be impacted by the deaccreditation process.

These communities contain levees that will be, or may have already been, remapped and decertified for not providing protection from the 1 percent annual chance flood.

Many of the families in these impacted communities have lived in their homes for years, and believed that the levees in their backyards protected them from the threat of dangerous and costly flooding.

As a result of the changing risk, homeowners who were previously exempt from mandatory flood insurance may now be required to purchase flood insurance.

That is why I believe this bill is necessary. The Homeowners Flood Insurance Protection Act lightens this burden.

For nearly 40 years, the National Flood Insurance Program has been instrumental in making flood insurance readily available to all Americans:

Communities have partnered with the Federal Government to adopt and enforce floodplain management and, in turn, receive federally-backed insurance policies; and through the development of effective floodplain management strategies, millions of families have been protected from flooding and saved from the devastating costs associated with flood damage.

But today, the program is in danger.

After the record-breaking losses of nearly \$20 billion suffered as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, it is clear that the program needs to be updated.

This expansive project will allow communities to formulate responsible floodplain development plans and prepare for catastrophic flooding. The project will also ensure that the National Flood Insurance Program charges fair rates for their flood insurance premiums.

Now, I support the National Flood Insurance program and recognize the importance of mandatory purchase requirements.

The problem is that homeowners who have paid their taxes and helped to pay for the upkeep of these levees, will now find themselves forced to pay an additional insurance premium because of a failing levee.

Many of these individuals in my State and across the country are low-income earners and this increasing burden threatens to break the bank.

Coupled with rising energy, health care and home mortgage costs, the unexpected additional expense of flood insurance may be too much for some families.

That is why we need to offer this assistance.

We must act soon to overhaul our Nation's flood insurance program.

However, it is also our responsibility to mitigate the impact of the levee decertification process on thousands of unsuspecting families across the country.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2251

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Homeowner's Flood Insurance Protection Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. 5-YEAR DISCOUNT OF FLOOD INSURANCE RATES FOR FORMERLY PROTECTED AREAS.

Section 1308 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4015) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by inserting "and subsection (g)" before the first comma; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) 5-YEAR DISCOUNT OF FLOOD INSURANCE RATES FOR FORMERLY PROTECTED AREAS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to chargeable risk premium rates for flood insurance cov-

erage under this title, in the case of any area that previously was not designated as an area having special flood hazards because the area was protected by a flood protection system and that, pursuant to any updating, reviewing, or remapping of flood insurance program rate maps under this Act or any other subsequent Act, becomes designated as such an area as a result of the decertification of such flood protection system, during the 5-year period that begins upon the initial such designation of the area, the chargeable premium rate for flood insurance under this title with respect to any property that prior to the date of enactment of the Homeowner's Flood Insurance Protection Act of 2007 was located within such area shall be equal to 50 percent of the chargeable risk premium rate otherwise applicable under this title to the property.

"(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), any new property or structure developed, constructed, or otherwise built after the date of enactment of the Homeowner's Flood Insurance Protection Act of 2007 on any property described in such paragraph shall not be eligible for the chargeable premium rate discount under such paragraph.”

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 357—A BILL DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 11 THROUGH NOVEMBER 17, 2007, AS "NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK" TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VETERANS TO THE COUNTRY

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. TESTER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DODD, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 357

Whereas tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces during the past century;

Whereas the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by the people of the United States;

Whereas the advent of the all-volunteer Armed Forces has resulted in a sharp decline in the number of individuals and families who have had any personal connection with the Armed Forces;

Whereas this reduction in familiarity with the Armed Forces has resulted in a marked decrease in the awareness by young people of the nature and importance of the accomplishments of those who have served in the