

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Salary Offset” (RIN0991-AB19) received on March 8, 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-982. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medical Devices; Reprocessed Single-Use Devices; Requirement for Submission of Validation Data; Withdrawal” (Docket No. 2006N-0335) received on March 8, 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-983. A communication from the Director, Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medical Devices; Reprocessed Single-Use Device; Requirements for Submission of Validation Data” (Docket No. 2006N-0335) received on March 8, 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-984. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Letter Report: Audit of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A for Fiscal Years 2004 Through 2006, as of March 31, 2006”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-985. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Report on Advisory Neighborhood Commissions”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-986. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the implementation and effectiveness of the direct-hire authority to attract candidates with unusually high qualifications to the Federal acquisition workforce; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-987. A communication from the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General’s quarterly report for the period ending December 31, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-988. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency’s Strategic Plan for 2006-2011 and its Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-989. A communication from the Chairman, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Performance Budget for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-990. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel and Designated Reporting Official, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a change in previously submitted reported information for the position of Deputy Director for Supply Reduction, received on March 8, 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-991. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Office of Management and Administration, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration’s competitive sourcing efforts for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

#### 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 Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 847. A bill to extend the period of time during which a veteran’s multiple sclerosis is to be considered to have been incurred in, or aggravated by, military service during a period of war; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 848. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide improved benefits for veterans who are former prisoners of war; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 849. A bill to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 850. A bill to improve sharing of immigration information among Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials, to improve State and local enforcement of immigration laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. BAYH, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 851. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a higher education opportunity credit in place of existing education tax incentives; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 852. A bill to deauthorize the project for navigation, Tenants Harbor, Maine; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 853. A bill to deauthorize the project for navigation, Northeast Harbor, Maine; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 854. A bill to modify the project for navigation, Union River, Maine; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 855. A bill to deauthorize a certain portion of the project for navigation, Rockland Harbor, Maine; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 856. A bill to terminate authorization for the project for navigation, Rockport Harbor, Maine; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 857. A bill to redesignate the project for navigation, Saco River, Maine, as an anchorage area; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 858. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the transportation fringe benefit to bicycle commuters; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 859. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to award funds to study the feasibility

of constructing dedicated ethanol pipelines to increase the energy, economic, and environmental security of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BAYH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

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; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 861. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 131 East 4th Street in Davenport, Iowa, as the “James A. Leach Federal Building”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 862. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 210 Walnut Street in Des Moines, Iowa, as the “Neal Smith Federal Building”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 863. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency funds; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUNNING (for himself and Mr. McCONNELL):

S. 864. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 865. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army to carry out a project for the mitigation of shore damages attributable to the project for navigation, Saco River, Maine; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 866. A bill to provide for increased planning and funding for health promotion programs of the Department of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. KERRY):

S. 867. A bill to adjust the boundary of Lowell National Historical Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. KERRY):

S. 868. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Taunton River in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 5

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

S. 21

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 21, a bill to expand access to preventive health care services that help reduce unintended pregnancy, reduce abortions, and improve access to women's health care.

S. 22

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 261

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 261, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

S. 311

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 311, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

S. 474

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 474, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 522, a bill to safeguard the economic health of the United States and the health and safety of the United States citizens by improving the management, coordination, and effectiveness of domestic and international intellectual property rights enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 543, a bill to improve Medicare beneficiary access by extending the 60 percent compliance threshold used to determine whether a hospital or unit of a

hospital is an inpatient rehabilitation facility under the Medicare program.

S. 573

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) 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. 585

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 585, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue coins in commemoration of Native Americans and the important contributions made by Indian tribes and individual Native Americans to the development of the United States and the history of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 615, a bill to provide the nonimmigrant spouses and children of nonimmigrant aliens who perished in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks an opportunity to adjust their status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, and for other purposes.

S. 627

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 627, a bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to improve the health and well-being of maltreated infants and toddlers through the creation of a National Court Teams Resource Center, to assist local Court Teams, and for other purposes.

S. 718

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 718, a bill to optimize the delivery of critical care medicine and expand the critical care workforce.

S. 721

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 721, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 771

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. SPECTER) 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 schoolchildren 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. 803

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) 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. 815

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to provide health care benefits to veterans with a service-connected disability at non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities that receive payments under the Medicare program or the TRICARE program.

S. 827

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, a bill to establish the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area in the States of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and for other purposes.

S. 831

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 831, a bill to authorize States and local governments to prohibit the investment of State assets in any company that has a qualifying business relationship with Sudan.

S.J. RES. 5

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 5, a joint resolution proclaiming Casimir Pulaski to be an honorary citizen of the United States posthumously.

S. RES. 95

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 95, a resolution designating March 25, 2007, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy".

AMENDMENT NO. 299

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 299 proposed to S. 4, a bill to make the United States more secure by implementing unfinished recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to fight the war on terror more effectively, to improve homeland security, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 383

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 383 proposed to S. 4, a bill to make the United States more secure by implementing unfinished recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to fight the war on terror more effectively, to improve homeland security, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 412

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 412 proposed to S. 4, a bill to make the United States more secure by implementing unfinished recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to fight the war on terror more effectively, to improve homeland security, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 420

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 420 intended to be proposed to S. 4, a bill to make the United States more secure by implementing unfinished recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to fight the war on terror more effectively, to improve homeland security, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 435

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 435 intended to be proposed to S. 4, a bill to make the United States more secure by implementing unfinished recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to fight the war on terror more effectively, to improve homeland security, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 448

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 448 proposed to S. 4, a bill to make the United States more secure by implementing unfinished recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to fight the war on terror more effectively, to improve homeland security, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

BY Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 849. A bill to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator CORNYN in introducing the Openness Promotes Effectiveness in our National Government Act, the “OPEN Government Act”. This bill contains commonsense reforms to update and strengthen the

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for all Americans.

Last year, the Senate Judiciary Committee favorably reported an essentially identical bill. Sadly, the full Senate did not consider this legislation before it adjourned last year. But, I hope that the Senate will do its part to reinvigorate FOIA this year, by promptly passing this bill.

During my three decades in the Senate, I have devoted a considerable portion of my work to improving government openness, to make our government work better for the American people. At times, this has been a lonely effort. But, for the past 4 years, I have been delighted to have Senator CORNYN as a partner on this important issue. I thank him for his leadership on preserving and strengthening FOIA.

Now in its fourth decade, the Freedom of Information Act remains an indispensable tool in shedding light on bad policies and government abuses. But, today, FOIA also faces challenges like never before. During the past 6 years, the Bush administration has allowed lax FOIA enforcement and a near obsession with secrecy to undercut the public's right to know. As we celebrate Sunshine Week this week, there is urgent need to update and strengthen our FOIA law.

Chief among the problems with FOIA is the major delays encountered by FOIA requestors. According to a report by the National Security Archive, an independent nongovernmental research institute, the oldest outstanding FOIA requests date back to 1989—before the collapse of the Soviet Union. And, while the number of FOIA requests submitted each year continues to rise, our Federal agencies remain unable—or unwilling—to keep up with the demand. Just recently, the Government Accountability Office found that Federal agencies had 43 percent more FOIA requests pending and outstanding in 2006, than they had in 2002.

Although the Bush administration has taken modest steps to address the growing problem with FOIA delays, that effort has not done nearly enough to correct lax FOIA enforcement by Federal agencies. More than a year after the President's directive to Government agencies to improve their FOIA services, Americans who seek information under FOIA remain less likely to obtain it. For example, a recent study by the Coalition of Journalists for Open Government found that the percentage of FOIA requestors who obtained at least some of the information that they requested from the Government fell by 31 percent last year. These and other shortcomings with the President's FOIA policy demonstrate that the Congress must play an important role in preserving and strengthening FOIA.

The legislation that Senator CORNYN and I introduce today takes several important steps to help Americans obtain timely responses to their FOIA requests and to provide government offi-

cials with the tools that they need to ensure that our government remains open and accessible. First, our bill restores meaningful deadlines for agency action by ensuring that the 20-day statutory clock runs immediately upon the receipt of the request and the bill impose real consequences on Federal agencies for missing statutory deadlines. Our bill also clarifies that FOIA applies to agency records that are held by outside private contractors, no matter where these records are located.

In addition, our bill establishes a FOIA hotline service for all Federal agencies, either by telephone or on the Internet, to enable requestors to track the status of their FOIA requests. Finally, our bill enhances the agency reporting requirements under FOIA and improves personnel policies for FOIA officials to enhance agency FOIA performance.

This legislation was drafted after a long and thoughtful process of consultation with individuals and organizations that rely on FOIA to obtain information and share it with the public, including the news media, librarians, and public interest organizations representing all facets of the political spectrum.

This legislation also reaffirms the fundamental premise of FOIA—that government information belongs to all Americans. Again, I thank Senator CORNYN for the time and effort that he has devoted to reinvigorating FOIA, and I urge all Senators to join us in supporting this important open government legislation.

## By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 852. A bill to deauthorize the project for navigation, Tenants Harbor, Maine; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

## By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 853. A bill to deauthorize the project for navigation, Northeast Harbor, Maine; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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S. 854. A bill to modify the project for navigation, Union River, Maine; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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