

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BIDEN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment:

S. 1698. A bill to provide that no funds appropriated or otherwise made available by any Act for contributions for international organizations may be made available to support the United Nations Human Rights Council (Rept. No. 110-137).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. BINGAMAN for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Brent T. Wahlquist, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

*James L. Caswell, of Idaho, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

*Lisa E. Epifani, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs).

*Kevin M. Kolevar, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability).

*Clarence H. Albright, of South Carolina, to be Under Secretary of Energy.

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

*David C. Geary, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term expiring November 28, 2010.

*Miguel Campaneria, of Puerto Rico, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2012.

*Diane Auer Jones, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

*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. ENSIGN:

S. 1869. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require new voting systems to provide a voter-verified permanent record, to develop better accessible voting machines for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. DODD, Mr. KOHL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1870. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the United States over waters of the United States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1871. A bill to provide for special transfers of funds to States to promote certain improvements in State unemployment compensation laws; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1872. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to make revenue counter-cyclical payments available to producers on a farm to ensure that the producers at least receive a minimum level of revenue from the production of a covered commodity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. OBAMA:

S. 1873. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish demonstration programs on regionalized systems for emergency care, to support emergency medicine research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1874. A bill to provide for efficient containment and management of climate change costs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. 1875. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable and advanceable credit for health insurance, to amend the Social Security Act to provide for improved private health insurance access and affordability, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the alternative minimum tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BIDEN:

S. 1876. A bill to prohibit extraterritorial detention and rendition, except under limited circumstances, to modify the definition of "unlawful enemy combatant" for purposes of military commissions, to extend statutory habeas corpus to detainees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 1877. A bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to prescribe that members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform may render the military salute during hoisting, lowering, or passing of flag; considered and passed.

By Mr. WEBB (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1878. A bill to authorize grants for contributions toward the establishment of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 65

At the request of Mr. CASEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to modify the age-60 standard for certain pilots and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 65, supra.

S. 340

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 340, a bill to improve agricultural job opportunities, benefits, and security for aliens in the United States and for other purposes.

S. 453

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor 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 Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) 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. 543

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor 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. 557

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 557, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the depreciation classification of motorsports entertainment complexes.

S. 597

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

S. 656

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 656, a bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain nationals of Liberia to that of lawful permanent residence.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) 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. 969

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 969, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the definition of supervisor.

S. 1373

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1373, a bill to provide grants and loan guarantees for the development and construction of science parks to promote the clustering of innovation through high technology activities.

S. 1374

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island

(Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1374, a bill to assist States in making voluntary high quality full-day prekindergarten programs available and economically affordable for the families of all children for at least 1 year preceding kindergarten.

S. 1406

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to strengthen polar bear conservation efforts, and for other purposes.

S. 1494

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1494, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the special diabetes programs for Type I diabetes and Indians under that Act.

S. 1603

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1603, a bill to authorize Congress to award a gold medal to Jerry Lewis, in recognition of his outstanding service to the Nation.

S. 1682

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1682, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the management of medical care for members of the Armed Forces, to improve the speed and efficiency of the physical disability evaluation system of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 1716

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1716, a bill to amend the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007, to strike a requirement relating to forage producers.

S. 1718

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1718, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for reimbursement to servicemembers of tuition for programs of education interrupted by military service, for deferment of students loans and reduced interest rates for servicemembers during periods of military service, and for other purposes.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr.

BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1738, a bill to establish a Special Counsel for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction within the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, to improve the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, to increase resources for regional computer forensic labs, and to make other improvements to increase the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute predators.

S. 1849

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1849, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that wages paid to unauthorized aliens may not be deducted from gross income, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 118

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 118, a resolution urging the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt.

S. RES. 276

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 276, a resolution calling for the urgent deployment of a robust and effective multinational peacekeeping mission with sufficient size, resources, leadership, and mandate to protect civilians in Darfur, Sudan, and for efforts to strengthen the renewal of a just and inclusive peace process.

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 276, *supra*.

AMENDMENT NO. 2049

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2049 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2395

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2395 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2638, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2398

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2398 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2638, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ENSIGN:

S. 1869. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require new voting systems to provide a voter-verified permanent record, to develop better accessible voting machines for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, in the November 2004 elections, Nevadans entered a new frontier for casting their votes. We became the first State in the Nation to require that voter-verified paper audit trail printers be used with touch-screen voting machines.

Despite what critics of these machines might tell you, Nevada's elections were a success. The machines worked well and were well-received by voters. During a post-election audit, Nevada compared 60,000 electronic ballots with their corresponding voter-verified paper record and found that they matched with 100 percent consistency. As a result, all Nevadans who used these machines can be confident that their votes were counted accurately.

I understand better than most the importance of the integrity of the ballot box. I was at the mercy of a paperless-machine election in my 1998 race for the U.S. Senate. When the votes were tallied with a difference of only a few hundred, I asked for a recount in Clark County, the only county at the time using electronic voting machines. The result of the recount was identical to the first count. That is because there was nothing to recount. After rerunning a computer program, the computer predictably produced the same exact tally.

I conceded that race and was elected to Nevada's other Senate seat in 2000. But that experience made me realize the importance of ensuring Americans that their votes will count, it is absolutely fundamental to our democracy.

That is why I led the fight for voter verification paper trails in the Help America Vote Act, known as HAVA, which President Bush signed into law in 2002. When Congress passed HAVA, we expressed our commitment to the principle of "one person, one vote." One important component of HAVA provided States with funds to replace aging voting machines which had a tendency to malfunction. A voting machine that fails to record a vote properly affects voters in the same way as