

the Delivery System"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7121. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates" (Notice 2008-65) received on July 9, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7122. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Change to Office to Which Notices of Nonjudicial Sale and Request for Return of Wrongfully Levied Property Must Be Sent" (RIN1545-BF54)(TD 9410) received on July 9, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7123. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Coordinated Issue: Supplemental Environmental Projects" (LMSB-04-0608-036) received on July 10, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7124. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Escrow Accounts, Trusts, and Other Funds Used During Deferred Exchanges of Like-Kind Property" (TD 9413) received on July 9, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7125. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a certification of the proposed transfer of the Baseline Phase 1R Aegis combat system equipment to several companies; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7126. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles to Taiwan for the development of the 721S VHF and UHF receiver-transmitter radio and an equipment cabinet; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7127. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of an application for a license for the transfer of defense articles to South Africa in support of the manufacture of the RG-33 Family of Military Vehicles; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7128. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semi-annual Report for the period of October 1, 2007, through March 31, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7129. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program—Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers—Final Priorities" received on July 10, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7130. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers

Program—Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers—Final Priorities" received on July 10, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7131. A communication from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Community Services Block Grant Statistical Report and Report on Performance Outcomes for Fiscal Year 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7132. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems: Definition of the New Orleans, Louisiana, Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Area" (RIN3206-AL68) received on July 10, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7133. A communication from the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the implementation of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission for the period from October 1, 2007, to December 31, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7134. A communication from the Program Manager, Information Sharing Environment, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Annual Report to the Congress on the Information Sharing Environment"; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-7135. A communication from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Florida, received on July 10, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7136. A communication from the Board of Trustees, National Tropical Botanical Garden, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Audit Report for calendar year 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. HATCH (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 3254. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow banks to be taxed as limited liability companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3255. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to provide for the oversight of large trades of over-the-counter energy and agricultural contracts to prevent price manipulation and excessive speculation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. BOXER):

S. 3256. A bill to provide a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 3257. A bill to extend immigration programs to promote legal immigration and for other purposes; read the first time.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 439

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation.

S. 450

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 450, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 604

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 604, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to limit increases in the certain costs of health care services under the health care programs of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) 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. 1183

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1183, a bill to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1287

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1287, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an offset against income tax refunds to pay for State judicial debts that are past-due.

S. 1932

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1932, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to increase SBIR and STTR program expenditures.

S. 2182

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2182, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to mental health services.

S. 2369

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2369, a bill to amend title

35, United States Code, to provide that certain tax planning inventions are not patentable, and for other purposes.

S. 2453

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2453, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to clarify requirements relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of national origin.

S. 2668

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2668, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 2704

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2704, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of services of qualified respiratory therapists performed under the general supervision of a physician.

S. 2767

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2767, a bill to provide for judicial discretion regarding suspensions of student eligibility under section 484(r) of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

S. 2875

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2875, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide grants to designated States and tribes to carry out programs to reduce the risk of livestock loss due to predation by gray wolves and other predator species or to compensate landowners for livestock loss due to predation.

S. 2883

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2883, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Mother's Day.

S. 2908

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2908, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to prohibit the display of Social Security account numbers on Medicare cards.

S. 2916

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 2916, a bill to ensure greater transparency in the Federal contracting process, and to help prevent contractors that violate criminal laws from obtaining Federal contracts.

S. 3232

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr.

HATCH) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3232, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program to provide assistance for poison prevention, sustain the funding of poison centers, and enhance the public health of people of the United States.

S. 3038

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3038, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the adoption incentives program, to authorize States to establish a relative guardianship program, to promote the adoption of children with special needs, and for other purposes.

S. 3093

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3093, a bill to extend and improve the effectiveness of the employment eligibility confirmation program.

S. 3125

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3125, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

S. 3127

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3127, a bill to reauthorize the Select Agent Program by amending the Public Health Service Act and the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 and to improve oversight of high containment laboratories.

S. 3150

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3150, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Transportation or the Administrator of Federal Aviation Administration from conducting auctions, implementing congestion pricing, limiting airport operations, or charging certain use fees at airports.

S. 3209

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3209, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to clarify the filing period applicable to charges of discrimination, and for other purposes.

S. 3223

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from South Da-

kota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3223, a bill to establish a small business energy emergency disaster loan program.

S. 3238

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3238, a bill to prohibit the importation of ruminants and swine, and fresh and frozen meat and products of ruminants and swine, from Argentina until the Secretary of Agriculture certifies to Congress that every region of Argentina is free of foot and mouth disease without vaccination.

S.J. RES. 43

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 43, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage.

S. RES. 598

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 598, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need for the United States to lead renewed international efforts to assist developing nations in conserving natural resources and preventing the impending extinction of a large portion of the world's plant and animal species.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 3254. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow banks to be taxed as limited liability companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my dear friend and colleague, Senator LINCOLN, I rise today to introduce the Small Bank Tax Equity Act.

One of the many important duties of Congress is to ensure that the various laws that govern commerce in this Nation are working as efficiently as possible. This can be a significant challenge because of the rate of change and innovation occurring in our world today. Nevertheless, we need to be aware that changing circumstances can lead to obsolescence in our laws, which can have a limiting effect on economic growth and on our ability to compete in an ever-more challenging marketplace.

This is as true of our tax laws as it is with any other laws. We often speak of the many problems of the Internal Revenue Code, and most of them have to do with complexity and perceived unfairness. However, I believe that the issue of outdated or obsolete provisions that no longer reflect the realities of our changing world is also an obstacle that deserves our attention.