

Buy American Act report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7512. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's inventory of non-inherently governmental activities during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7513. A communication from the Acting Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Critical Position Pay Authority" (RIN3206-AK87) received on August 26, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7514. A communication from the Deputy Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program" (RIN3206-AL03) received on August 26, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7515. A communication from the President of the United States of America, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items that will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China (one two-inch fluid energy mill); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7516. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, a correspondence from the Chairman of Bahrain's Council of Representatives; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7517. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, weekly reports relative to post-liberation Iraq for the period of June 15, 2008, through August 15, 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7518. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the employment of an adequate number of Americans during 2007 by the United Nations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7519. A communication from the Acting Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2008-129-2008-139); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7520. A communication from the Acting Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2008-140-2008-147); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7521. A communication from the Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union, transmitting, documents relative to the International Day of Democracy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DODD, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 3052. A bill to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients (Rept. No. 110-451).

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. COLEMAN:

S. 3460. A bill to establish a pilot program to demonstrate best practices, innovation, and knowledge transfer regarding cyber security within State governments; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 3461. A bill to evaluate certain certification programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 3462. A bill to ensure that the courts of the United States may provide an impartial forum for claims brought by United States citizens and others against any railroad organized as a separate legal entity, arising from the deportation of United States citizens and others to Nazi concentration camps on trains owned or operated by such railroad, and by heirs and survivors of such persons; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3463. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish pilot project offices to improve Federal permit coordination for renewable energy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 3464. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to improve the international protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 3465. A bill to reserve certain proceeds from the auction of spectrum, including the auction of the D-block of spectrum, for use to provide interoperable devices to public safety personnel; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 3466. A bill to improve the job access and reverse commute program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 3467. A bill to extend through April 1, 2009, the MinnesotaCare Medicaid demonstration project; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 3468. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to continue the ability of hospitals to supply a needed workforce of nurses and allied health professionals by preserving funding for hospital operated nursing and allied health education programs; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 653. A resolution celebrating the outstanding athletic accomplishments of

The Ohio State University football team for achieving its 800th all-time victory; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 654. A resolution honoring the life and recognizing the accomplishments of the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Member of the House of Representatives for the 11th Congressional District of Ohio; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. Con. Res. 97. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding sexual assaults and rape in the military; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 507

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) 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. 826

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of S. 826, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Alice Paul, in recognition of her role in the women's suffrage movement and in advancing equal rights for women.

S. 903

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 903, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty.

S. 1001

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1001, a bill to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

S. 1232

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1232, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop a voluntary policy for managing the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes.

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1375, a bill to ensure that new mothers and their families are educated about postpartum depression, screened for symptoms, and provided with essential services, and to increase research at the National Institutes of Health on postpartum depression.

S. 2059

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to clarify the eligibility requirements with respect to airline flight crews.

S. 2261

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2261, a bill to restore the rule that agreements between manufacturers and retailers, distributors, or wholesalers to set the minimum price below which the manufacturer's product or service cannot be sold violates the Sherman Act.

S. 2310

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2310, a bill to establish a National Catastrophic Risks Consortium and a National Homeowners' Insurance Stabilization Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2641

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2641, a bill to amend title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve the transparency of information on skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities and to clarify and improve the targeting of the enforcement of requirements with respect to such facilities.

S. 2892

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2892, a bill to promote the prosecution and enforcement of frauds against the United States by suspending the statute of limitations during times when Congress has authorized the use of military force.

S. 2908

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) 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. 2998

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2998, a bill to require accurate and reasonable disclosure of the terms and conditions of prepaid telephone calling cards and services, and for other purposes.

S. 2999

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2999, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of

1986 to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide coverage for individuals participating in approved cancer clinical trials.

S. 3078

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3078, a bill to establish a National Innovation Council, to improve the coordination of innovation activities among industries in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3080

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3080, a bill to ensure parity between the temporary duty imposed on ethanol and tax credits provided on ethanol.

S. 3200

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3200, a bill to develop capacity and infrastructure for mentoring programs.

S. 3246

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3246, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to set the standard mileage rate for use of a passenger automobile for purposes of the charitable contributions deduction.

S. 3325

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3325, a bill to enhance remedies for violations of intellectual property laws, and for other purposes.

S. 3327

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3327, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to improve the State plan amendment option for providing home and community-based services under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes.

S. 3361

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3361, a bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to implement a drug testing program for applicants for and recipients of assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

S. 3362

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3362, a bill to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3377

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3377, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to waive the biometric transportation security card requirement for certain small business merchant mariners, and for other purposes.

S. 3392

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3392, a bill to amend Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an appeal and redress process for passengers wrongly delayed or prohibited from boarding a flight, or denied a right, benefit, or privilege, and for other purposes.

S. 3406

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3406, a bill to restore the intent and protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

S. 3408

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3408, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for the conduct of comparative effectiveness research and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a Comparative Effectiveness Research Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 3429

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3429, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide for an increased mileage rate for charitable deductions.

S. 3458

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3458, a bill to prohibit golden parachute payments for former executives and directors of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

S.J. RES. 27

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 27, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to the line item veto.

S. RES. 636

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 636, a resolution recognizing the strategic success of the troop surge in Iraq and expressing gratitude to the

members of the United States Armed Forces who made that success possible.

AMENDMENT NO. 4979

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4979 proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 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. 5266

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5266 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 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. 5271

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5271 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 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. 5281

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5281 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 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. 5282

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5282 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 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. 5298

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator

from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5298 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 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. 5302

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5302 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 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. 5319

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5319 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 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. 5320

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5320 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 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. 5323

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr.

GRASSLEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5323 proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 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.

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5323 proposed to S. 3001, *supra*.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 3461. A bill to evaluate certain certification programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I introduce a simple bill that is the first step toward helping American workers and businesses. The Skills Standards Certification Evaluation Act of 2008 will require the Secretaries of Labor and Commerce to evaluate skills standards certification programs that have been developed with Federal funding.

Skills Standards Certifications have emerged in the past 2 decades in response to job growth in high-technology and varied industries. The training or classes usually take weeks or months, rather than years. Often, they are developed in response to the needs of one industry or even one company, though the skills may be applicable more widely.

The Federal government has taken conflicting approaches to skills standards certifications over the past two decades. That is why, as part of the Skills Standards Certification Evaluation Act, I require a recommendation from the Secretaries of Labor and Commerce on how Congress ought to move forward with funding for these certification programs. Both the national, top-down, and a local, bottom-up approach have been tried, and a thorough evaluation will make clear how we can move forward to get the most out of the funding the Federal Government provides.

These certifications have a tremendous benefit for workers. First, because the training is often condensed into a few weeks with a flexible schedule, it allows people to complete certifications without leaving a current job and without the financial cost of attending a full-time program that lasts a year or more. In addition, these programs allow workers to clearly demonstrate a certain set of skills, and may open more doors for higher-paying employment. Because these programs can be completed without leaving work, they also allow workers to advance within a career or company to