

EC-7568. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fenbuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8376-4) received on August 29, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7569. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 8701-4) received on August 29, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7570. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acetic acid ethenyl ester, polymer with sodium 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propen-1-yl)amino]-1-propanesulfonate (1:1), hydrolyzed; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 8380-1) received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7571. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Operating Permits Program; State of Missouri" (FRL No. 8713-8) received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7572. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans Alabama: Volatile Organic Compounds and Open Burning" (FRL No. 8714-7) received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7573. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Florida; Removal of Gasoline Vapor Recovery from Southeast Florida Areas" (FRL No. 8714-8) received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7574. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Approval of Section 110(a)(1) Maintenance Plan for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard for the New Orleans Ozone Maintenance Area" (FRL No. 8713-6) received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7575. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Amendments to the Control of Incinerators" (FRL No. 8714-5) received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7576. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Michigan; PSD Regulations" (FRL No. 8714-1) received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7577. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting,

pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bacillus thuringiensis Cry2Ae in Cotton; Temporary Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8380-1) received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7578. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benfluralin, Carbaryl, Diazinon, Dicrotophos, Fluometuron, Formetanate Hydrochloride, Glyphosate, Metolachlor, Napropamide, Norflurazon, Pyrazon, and Tau-Fluvalinate; Tolerance Actions" (FRL No. 8379-3) received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7579. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NPDES Voluntary Permit Fee Incentive for Clean Water Act Section 106 Grants; Allotment Formula" (FRL No. 8712-7) received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7580. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Spiromesifen; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8379-8) received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7581. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Control of Emissions from Nonroad Spark-Ignition Engines and Equipment" (FRL No. 8712-8) received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 3097. A bill to amend the Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (Rept. No. 110-458).

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

H.R. 2553. A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for the establishment and maintenance of existing libraries and resource centers at United States diplomatic and consular missions to provide information about American culture, society, and history, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-459).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 2052. A bill to allow for certiorari review of certain cases denied relief or review by the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

S. 3166. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to impose criminal penalties on individuals who assist aliens who have engaged in genocide, torture, or extrajudicial killings to enter the United States.

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. 3483. A bill to improve consumer access to passenger vehicle loss data held by insurers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SMITH):

S. 3484. A bill to provide for a delay in the phase out of the hospice budget neutrality adjustment factor under title XVIII of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3485. A bill to require manufacturers to increase the percentage of automobiles manufactured for sale within the United States that are capable of operating on higher-level blends of renewable fuels, such as ethanol and biodiesel, in combination with gasoline or diesel fuel; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 3486. A bill to establish the Commission on Measures of Household Economic Security to conduct a study and submit a report containing recommendations to establish and report economic statistics that reflect the economic status and well-being of American households; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mrs. CLINTON)):

S. 3487. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 657. A resolution designating September 13, 2008, as "National Celiac Disease Awareness Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. Res. 658. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the former chief executive officers of Fannie Mae should not receive lavish severance packages at taxpayer expense; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 860

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 935

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 935, a bill to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 1010

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1010, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage guaranteed lifetime income payments from annuities and similar payments of life insurance proceeds at dates later than death by excluding from income a portion of such payments.

S. 1556

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1556, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage to designated plan beneficiaries of employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) 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. 2618

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2618, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research with respect to various forms of muscular dystrophy, including Becker, congenital, distal, Duchenne, Emery-Dreifuss, Facioscapulohumeral, limb-girdle, myotonic, and oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophies.

S. 2919

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2919, a bill to promote the accurate transmission of network traffic identification information.

S. 3197

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3197, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to exempt for a limited period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days.

S. 3353

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3353, a bill to provide temporary financial relief for rural school districts adversely impacted by the current energy crisis, and for other purposes.

S. 3380

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3380, a bill to promote increased public transportation use, to promote increased use of alternative fuels in providing public transportation, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5278

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5278 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 Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) 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. 5308

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5308 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. 5338

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5338 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. 5399

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5399 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. 5444

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5444 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SMITH):

S. 3484. A bill to provide for a delay in the phaseout of the hospice budget neutrality adjustment factor under title XVIII of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition today to introduce the Medicare Hospice Protection Act, which will place a one-year moratorium on a final rule issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, reducing payments to hospice providers and ensure Medicare beneficiaries' access to hospice care.

More than 1.3 million Americans depend on hospice for high quality and compassionate end-of-life care each year. Unfortunately, on August 1, 2008, CMS issued a final rule to reduce hospice reimbursement rates in Medicare. This reduction of the hospice wage index will take \$2.3 billion out of hospice care over the next 5 years if this Congress allows it to be implemented as scheduled on October 1, 2008.

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, MedPAC, is currently examining the payment system for hospice care. We must allow the MedPAC to complete this important review of the hospice Medicare benefit and make payment recommendations, which is expected in 2009. The Hospice Protection Act, introduced by myself and Senators HARKIN, WYDEN, ROBERTS, ROCKEFELLER and SMITH, will provide that time with a one-year moratorium on implementation.

Hospice is an efficient and cost-effective health care model. Hospice provides individuals at the end of their lives, as well as their families, with comfort and compassion when they are needed most. Hospice care enables a person to retain his or her dignity and maintain quality of life during the end of life. An independent Duke University study in 2007 showed that patients receiving hospice care cost the Medicare program about \$2,300 less than