

LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, and Mr. HERGER of California.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 549. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Office for Bombing Prevention, to address terrorist explosive threats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 553. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a strategy to prevent the over-classification of homeland security and other information and to promote the sharing of unclassified homeland security and other information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 559. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an appeal and redress process for individuals wrongly delayed or prohibited from boarding a flight, or denied a right, benefit, or privilege, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 748. An act to establish and operate a National Center for Campus Public Safety; 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. DEMINT (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 374. A bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to provide regulatory relief to small and family-owned businesses; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 375. A bill to authorize the Crow Tribe of Indians water rights settlement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 376. A bill to provide rules for the modification or disposition of certain assets by real estate mortgage investment conduits pursuant to division A of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 377. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 131 East 4th Street in Davenport, Iowa, as the “James A. Leach United States Courthouse”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BAYH (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 378. A bill to correct the interpretation of the term proceeds under RICO; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CORKER, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 379. A bill to provide fair compensation to artists for use of their sound recordings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 380. A bill to expand the boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

and Underwater Preserve, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. INOUYE, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 381. A bill to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians, to provide a process for the reorganization of a Native Hawaiian government and the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 382. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the provision of items and services provided to Medicare beneficiaries residing in States with more cost-effective health care delivery systems; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. McCASKILL (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DODD, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 383. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110-343) to provide the Special Inspector General with additional authorities and responsibilities, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 27. A resolution congratulating the Pittsburgh Steelers on winning Super Bowl XLIII; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 261

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 261, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the deduction for the travel expenses of a taxpayer's spouse who accompanies the taxpayer on business travel.

S. 271

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 271, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to accelerate the production and adoption of plug-in electric vehicles and related component parts.

S. 359

At the request of Mr. INOUYE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 359, a bill to establish the Hawai'i Capital National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

S. 371

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) were added as cosponsors of S. 371, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18,

United States Code, to allow citizens who have concealed carry permits from the State in which they reside to carry concealed firearms in another State that grants concealed carry permits, if the individual complies with the laws of the State.

S. CON. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 3, a concurrent resolution honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

AMENDMENT NO. 102

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 102 proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 105

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 105 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 106

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 106 proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 114

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 114 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 116

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from

New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 116 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 138

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 138 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 139

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 139 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 140

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 140 proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 145

At the request of Mr. REID, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 145 proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 161

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 161 proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. KERRY, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 161 proposed to H.R. 1, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 171

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 171 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 173

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 173 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 189

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNSBACK), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 189 proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 197

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 197 proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 204

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 204 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 206

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr.

NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 206 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 376. A bill to provide rules for the modification or disposition of certain assets by real estate mortgage investment conduits pursuant to division A of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I introduce, along with Senators DODD, KERRY, SCHUMER, and STABENOW, the Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduit, REMIC, Improvement Act. This legislation could provide one of the keys to solving our national foreclosure crisis by unlocking mortgage securitization trusts so that more homeowners can stay in their homes.

In my own state of Rhode Island, 7.30 percent of all outstanding home loans are delinquent and 5.33 percent of all home loans are in the foreclosure process. This is the 10th highest foreclosure rate in the Nation, and the highest in New England. I have heard story after story of how difficult it is to get a loan modified or restructured if it is part of a mortgage securitization pool. As we have learned, part of the reason we are in the worst housing crisis since the Depression is that Wall Street firms packaged mortgages into pools and then sold different tranches of these pools to investors from all over the world. This diverse and convoluted ownership structure has made it difficult to get investor approval to modify or restructure them. Unlike in the movie "It's a Wonderful Life," most families can no longer walk into their local bank to talk to George Bailey about modifying or restructuring their loan.

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 required the Treasury Department to use its new authorities to incentivize servicers toward more loan restructurings. However, it has become clear that additional legislation is needed to free servicers of these loan pools from conflicting requirements regarding modifications and provide them with the ability to sell mortgages to Treasury for foreclosure avoidance.

Many servicers, managing pools of loans for investors, are constrained by the trust agreements from modifying loans to a level that families can afford to pay or from selling the underlying