

development and production on the water resources of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 532. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a business credit against income for the purchase of fishing safety equipment; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 533. A bill to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to establish a grant program to ensure waterfront access for commercial fisherman, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 534. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce cost-sharing under part D of such title for certain non-institutionalized full-benefit dual eligible individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 535. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 536. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to modify the definition of the term "renewable biomass"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 537. A bill to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, relating to protective orders, sealing of cases, disclosures of discovery information in civil actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 538. A bill to increase the recruitment and retention of school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists by low-income local educational agencies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REID:

S. 539. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the President to designate certain geographical areas as national renewable energy zones, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 540. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to liability under State and local requirements respecting devices; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BOND, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 541. A bill to increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KOHL:

S. Res. 65. A resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of Fort McCoy in Sparta, Wisconsin; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BOND:

S. Res. 66. A resolution designating 2009 as the "Year of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps of the United States Army"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. KOHL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BURRIS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BAYH, and Mr. DODD):

S. Res. 67. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that providing breakfast in schools through the national school breakfast program has a positive impact on the lives and classroom performance of low-income children; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 133

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to prohibit any recipient of emergency Federal economic assistance from using such funds for lobbying expenditures or political contributions, to improve transparency, enhance accountability, encourage responsible corporate governance, and for other purposes.

S. 182

At the request of Mr. CASEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 182, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 378

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 378, a bill to correct the interpretation of the term proceeds under RICO.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes.

S. 456

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 456, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop guidelines to be used on a voluntary basis to develop plans to manage the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools and early childhood education programs, to establish

school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes.

S. 482

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 482, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 484

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 513

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of S. 513, a bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to publish information on financial assistance provided to various entities, and for other purposes.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 524, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for the expedited consideration of certain proposed rescissions of budget authority.

S. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 4, a concurrent resolution calling on the President and the allies of the United States to raise the case of Robert Levinson with officials of the Government of Iran at every level and opportunity, and urging officials of the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson and to share information on the investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

S. CON. RES. 6

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 6, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that national health care reform should ensure

that the health care needs of women and of all individuals in the United States are met.

S. RES. 20

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 20, a resolution celebrating the 60th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

S. RES. 60

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 60, a resolution commemorating the 10-year anniversary of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, and the Republic of Poland as members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

AMENDMENT NO. 615

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 615 proposed to H.R. 1105, a bill making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. NELSON, of Florida, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 528. A bill to prevent voter caging; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this week, the Nation commemorates the 49th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," a day which marked a crucial turning point in securing the right to vote for all Americans. On March 7, 1965, in Selma, Alabama, JOHN LEWIS and his fellow civil rights activists marched for their right to vote but were brutally attacked by state troopers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. We remember the acts of courageous Americans who fought through the years for equality. We honor their legacy by reaffirming our commitment to protect the right to vote for all Americans.

On the week of this important anniversary, I am pleased to join Sen. WHITEHOUSE in introducing the Caging Prohibition Act of 2009. This legislation contains commonsense reforms to strengthen the Nation's ability to combat organized efforts to suppress the right to vote and better protect the voting rights of countless Americans.

Senator WHITEHOUSE and I introduced a similar bill two years ago in an effort to bring urgent election reform to protect voters during the 2008 presidential election. Although the Rules Committee held a hearing on the measure, the bill was not reported out of Committee before the Senate adjourned last year. I hope the Senate will do its part to prevent shenanigans from

disenfranchising voters during the next Federal election, by promptly passing this bill.

During my three decades in the Senate, I have devoted a considerable portion of my work to improving democratic participation and make our government more accessible to all Americans. For the past two years, I have been delighted to have Senator WHITEHOUSE as a partner on this important issue. I thank him for his leadership on preserving and strengthening our voting rights.

In recent years, we have seen a surge in a particularly alarming form of voter suppression known as voter caging. In voter caging, a political organization sends mail to addresses on voter rolls, compiles a list of returned mail, and uses that list as grounds for partisan and unjustified purges or challenges of voters' eligibility. During the last two presidential election cycles, we have seen evidence of voter caging efforts emerge in numerous States, including Ohio, Florida, Michigan, and Pennsylvania.

Chief among the problems with voter caging is that it threatens to disenfranchise voters in an unreliable manner. Rather than preventing votes cast by ineligible voters, far too often the practice prevents legitimate voters from casting their ballots. According to a recent report from the nonpartisan Brennan Center for Justice, "[V]oter caging lists are highly likely to include the names of many voters who are in fact eligible to vote." Of course, since government databases are often riddled with typos and clerical errors, these findings are hardly surprising.

Even more troubling, voter caging often aims to disenfranchise minority voters. I recall during a Senate race in Louisiana, in 1986, a memorandum from the Republican National Committee concluded that hiring a consultant to distribute 350,000 mailings marked "do not forward" to mostly African-American districts would "eliminate at least 60-80,000 folks from the rolls . . . [and] could keep the black vote down considerably." That is unacceptable. That is wrong. No one's right to vote should be abridged, suppressed, or denied in the United States of America.

The practice of voter caging chips away at core protections in our democracy. The right to vote, and have your vote count, is a foundational right because it secures the effectiveness of all other protections. Indeed, the very legitimacy of our government is dependent on the access all Americans have to the political process. That is why voting is the cornerstone of our democracy. Any infringement on this right harms the fabric of America.

All too often, voter caging efforts have partisan goals. For example, the Judiciary Committee's investigation last Congress into the mass firings of U.S. Attorneys for political reasons shed light on how Tim Griffin, a former Bush White House aide, participated in

a voter caging scheme aimed at disenfranchising African-American voters in Florida. He was later appointed interim U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

Rooting out partisan voter caging tactics requires us to give Federal officials the tools and resources they need to investigate and prosecute organized efforts to suppress the right to vote. This bill will do exactly that.

This legislation would prohibit challenging a person's eligibility to vote—or register to vote—based on a voter caging list, an unverified match list, or foreclosure status. A challenged voter may feel intimidated or discouraged, and may leave a polling site and not vote. In America, a person should not lose their fundamental right to vote, nor have that vote challenged, on the sole basis of a mistake, error, or because their mail failed to reach them. Similarly, as the current economic crisis reminds us, Americans should not have their fundamental right to vote jeopardized simply because they lose their jobs to layoffs or their homes to foreclosure.

The bill would also require any private party who challenges the right of another citizen to vote—or register to vote—to set forth in writing, under penalty of perjury, the specific grounds for the alleged ineligibility. This provision deters illegitimate challenges to voters by requiring, at a minimum, a showing of good cause. It properly balances legitimate efforts to clean voting rolls with forbidding unreliable voter purges.

I am pleased that this bill has the support of civil rights and voting rights organizations such as the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the Lawyers Community for Civil Rights under Law, the Brennan Center for Justice, and the People for the American Way. They understand that voter caging is a modern-day barrier to the ballot box that has created unique problems for legitimate voters for many years, and that a Federal ban on these undemocratic practices is necessary.

I hope that this year all Senators will support this important legislation and take firm action to stamp out this intolerable voter suppression tactic.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. UDALL, of New Mexico, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KERRY, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 529. A bill to assist in the Conservation of rare fields and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of countries within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act, which I am introducing today along with my friends