

Chippewa National Forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 554. A bill to improve the safety of motorcoaches, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. REED, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. Res. 69. A resolution designating March 2009 as "National Reading Month" and authorizing the collection of nonmonetary book donations in Senate office buildings during the period beginning March 9, 2009 and ending March 27, 2009 from Senators and officers and employees of the Senate to assist elementary school students in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 70. A resolution congratulating the people of the Republic of Lithuania on the 1000th anniversary of Lithuania and celebrating the rich history of Lithuania; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. Res. 71. A resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority in Iran and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. DODD):

S. Con. Res. 10. A concurrent resolution congratulating the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force upon the completion of 1,000 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) deterrent patrols; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 132

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, a bill to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, and for other purposes.

S. 277

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 277, a bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service, and for other purposes.

S. 307

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr.

BEGICH) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 307, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide flexibility in the manner in which beds are counted for purposes of determining whether a hospital may be designated as a critical access hospital under the Medicare program and to exempt from the critical access hospital inpatient bed limitation the number of beds provided for certain veterans.

S. 388

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to extend the termination date for the exemption of returning workers from the numerical limitations for temporary workers.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 423, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing two-fiscal year budget authority, and for other purposes.

S. 435

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 435, a bill to provide for evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention to help build individual, family, and community strength and resiliency to ensure that youth lead productive, safe, health, gang-free, and law-abiding lives.

S. 450

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 450, a bill to understand and comprehensively address the oral health problems associated with methamphetamine use.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit the importation, exportation, transportation, and sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 475

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 475, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to guarantee the equity of spouses of military personnel with regard to matters of residency, and for other purposes.

S. 482

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

S. 486

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 486, a bill to achieve access to comprehensive primary health care services for all Americans and to reform the organization of primary care delivery through an expansion of the Community Health Center and National Health Service Corps programs.

S. 487

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 487, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

S. 527

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 527, a bill to amend the Clean Air act to prohibit the issuance of permits under title V of that Act for certain emissions from agricultural production.

S. 542

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 542, a bill to repeal the provision of law that provides automatic pay adjustments for Members of Congress.

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 542, supra.

S.J. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 7, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to the election of Senators.

S. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) 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. RES. 20

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) 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 names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors 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. 593

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 593 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. REID:

S. 546. 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; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I take a great deal of pride in the work done by the 110th Congress to fulfill our Government's obligations to our Nation's veterans. Our legislative accomplishments in those 2 years were significant.

We significantly increased funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs; we enacted a comprehensive program that provides tuition and benefits to every veteran who serves after 9/11; we refused to allow our wounded warriors to fall through the cracks, remedying the substandard care that many were receiving, and broadening eligibility for treatment programs to address the war's physical and psychological toll; we brought attention and funding to veterans' mental health issues, improving the level of care and access to treatment for both veterans and their family members; and we added provisions to the Housing and Economic Recovery Act to help protect our veterans from becoming victims of the housing crisis.

Indeed, we can be proud of these accomplishments, but I rise today to bring to light one area in which Congress can and must do more. For eight years I have been working to eliminate

an unconscionable policy under which a veteran who is classified as 'disabled' by the Veterans Administration is required, in essence, to pay his or her own disability compensation out of retirement pay received from the Department of Defense.

As it stands now, a disabled veteran is, by law, prevented from collecting both disability pay and retired pay. Despite the fact that a veteran is eligible for each for a different reason, the law prohibits receiving both. The end result of this prohibition known as "Concurrent Receipt" is that for every dollar a veteran receives as disability compensation, a dollar is deducted from his or her retirement pay. In some cases, this ban takes away a veteran's full retirement pay, wiping away the benefits he or she earned in 20 or more years of service.

Since 2000, I have been working to end this absurd policy. In 2003, Congress passed the first legislation in this vein, which allowed veterans with at least a 50 percent disability rating to become eligible for concurrent receipt of benefits over a 10-year phase-in period. The following year we successfully eliminated the ten year phase-in for those veterans with a 100 percent disability rating. In 2005, we passed legislation that permitted the concurrent receipt of retired and disability compensation to veterans who have been classified by the VA as "unemployable," however this group of veterans has had to wait until this year to receive the benefit of this legislation. Our Nation's veterans should have to wait no longer.

It is past time to eliminate the remaining bar to concurrent receipt of disability compensation and military retirement pay. I am proud to introduce the Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2009.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 546

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR PAYMENT OF BOTH RETIRED PAY AND VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN MILITARY RETIREES WITH COMPENSABLE SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

(a) EXTENSION OF CONCURRENT RECEIPT AUTHORITY TO RETIREES WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES RATED LESS THAN 50 PERCENT.—

(1) REPEAL OF 50 PERCENT REQUIREMENT.—Section 1414 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2) of subsection (a).

(2) COMPUTATION.—Paragraph (1) of subsection (c) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) For a month for which the retiree receives veterans' disability compensation for

a disability rated as 40 percent or less or has a service-connected disability rated as zero percent, \$0.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The heading of section 1414 of such title is amended to read as follows:

“§ 1414. Members eligible for retired pay who are also eligible for veterans' disability compensation: concurrent payment of retired pay and disability compensation”.

(2) The item relating to such section in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 71 of such title is amended to read as follows:

“1414. Members eligible for retired pay who are also eligible for veterans' disability compensation: concurrent payment of retired pay and disability compensation.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2009, and shall apply to payments for months beginning on or after that date.

SEC. 3. COORDINATION OF SERVICE ELIGIBILITY FOR COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION AND CONCURRENT RECEIPT.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO STANDARDIZE SIMILAR PROVISIONS.—

(1) QUALIFIED RETIREES.—Subsection (a) of section 1414 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 2(a), is amended—

(A) by striking “a member or” and all that follows through “retiree” and inserting “a qualified retiree”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) QUALIFIED RETIREES.—For purposes of this section, a qualified retiree, with respect to any month, is a member or former member of the uniformed services who—

“(A) is entitled to retired pay (other by reason of section 12731b of this title); and

“(B) is also entitled for that month to veterans' disability compensation.”.

(2) DISABILITY RETIREES.—Paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of section 1414 of such title is amended to read as follows:

“(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR RETIREES WITH FEWER THAN 20 YEARS OF SERVICE.—The retired pay of a qualified retiree who is retired under chapter 61 of this title with fewer than 20 years of creditable service is subject to reduction by the lesser of—

“(A) the amount of the reduction under sections 5304 and 5305 of title 38; or

“(B) the amount (if any) by which the amount of the member's retired pay under such chapter exceeds the amount equal to 2½ percent of the member's years of creditable service multiplied by the member's retired pay base under section 1406(b)(1) or 1407 of this title, whichever is applicable to the member.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2009, and shall apply to payments for months beginning on or after that date.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 547. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to reduce the costs of prescription drugs for enrollees of Medicaid managed care organizations by extending the discounts offered under fee-for-service Medicaid to such organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am introducing legislation today with Senators CASEY, STABENOW, and WHITEHOUSE entitled the Drug Rebate Equalization Act of 2009.

The Medicaid drug rebate ensures that State Medicaid programs receive