

11, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1600. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands" (RIN0648-XO13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1601. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XO12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1602. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XO14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1603. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Closure of the Eastern U.S./Canada Management Area" (RIN0648-XO25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1604. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XO85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1605. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch for Vessels in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Trawl Limited Access Fishery in the Central Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XN17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 384. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to provide assistance to foreign countries to promote food security, to stimulate rural economies, and to improve emergency response to food crises, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act

of 1961, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111-19).

By Mr. KERRY, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Con. Res. 19. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Shi'ite Personal Status Law in Afghanistan violates the fundamental human rights of women and should be repealed.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. BINGAMAN for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Rhea S. Suh, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

*David B. Sandalow, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs and Domestic Policy).

*Daniel B. Poneman, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

*Michael L. Connor, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Reclamation.

By Mr. KERRY for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Susan Flood Burk, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service, to be Special Representative of the President, with the rank of Ambassador.

*Harold Hongju Koh, of Connecticut, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

By Mr. HARKIN for Mr. KENNEDY for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Margaret A. Hamburg, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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 Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 1027. A bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to clarify that fundamental exchange-rate misalignment by any foreign nation is actionable under United States countervailing and antidumping duty laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 1028. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the Nation's surveillance and reporting for diseases and conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 1029. A bill to create a new incentive fund that will encourage States to adopt the 21st Century Skills Framework; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1030. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the reduction

in the credit rate for certain facilities producing electricity from renewable resources; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1031. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1032. A bill to provide for programs that reduce abortions, help women bear healthy children, and support new parents; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) (by request):

S. 1033. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1034. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to ensure payment under Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program for covered items and services furnished by school-based health clinics; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1035. A bill to enhance the ability of drinking water utilities in the United States to develop and implement climate change adaptation programs and policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:

S. Res. 148. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that there is a critical need to increase research, awareness, and education about cerebral cavernous malformations; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 21

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 21, a bill to reduce unintended pregnancy, reduce abortions, and improve access to women's health care.

S. 197

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 197, a bill to assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystem of cranes.

S. 243

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S.

243, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to establish the standard mileage rate for use of a passenger automobile for purposes of the charitable contributions deduction and to exclude charitable mileage reimbursements for gross income.

S. 408

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 408, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide a means for continued improvement in emergency medical services for children.

S. 484

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) 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. 529

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 529, a bill to assist in the conservation of rare felids 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.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 554, a bill to improve the safety of motorcoaches, and for other purposes.

S. 566

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 566, a bill to create a Financial Product Safety Commission, to provide consumers with stronger protections and better information in connection with consumer financial products, and to give providers of consumer financial products more regulatory certainty.

S. 608

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 608, a bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 to exclude secondary sales, repair services, and certain vehicles from the ban on lead in children's products, and for other purposes.

S. 634

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve standards for physical education.

S. 658

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Missouri

(Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 658, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care for veterans who live in rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 700

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 700, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to phase out the 24-month waiting period for disabled individuals to become eligible for Medicare benefits, to eliminate the waiting period for individuals with life-threatening conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 717

At the request of Mr. INOUE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 717, a bill to modernize cancer research, increase access to preventative cancer services, provide cancer treatment and survivorship initiatives, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 717, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 717, *supra*.

S. 831

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 831, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to include service after September 11, 2001, as service qualifying for the determination of a reduced eligibility age for receipt of non-regular service retired pay.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 846, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty.

S. 878

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 878, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify provisions relating to beach monitoring, and for other purposes.

S. 897

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 897, a bill to limit Federal spending to 20 percent of GDP.

S. 908

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 908, a bill to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to enhance United States diplomatic efforts with respect to Iran by expanding economic sanctions against Iran.

S. 918

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 918, a bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add New York to the New England Fishery Management Council, and for other purposes.

S. 981

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 981, a bill to support research and public awareness activities with respect to inflammatory bowel disease, and for other purposes.

S. 984

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 984, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for arthritis research and public health, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 140

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 140, a resolution commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers.

S. RES. 146

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 146, a resolution commending South Charleston, West Virginia, for celebrating its 50th annual Armed Forces Day on May 16, 2009.

AMENDMENT NO. 1058

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1058 proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1064

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1064 intended to be proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1079

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1079 proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and

transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1084

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1084 proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1085

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1085 proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1089

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1089 intended to be proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1090

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1090 intended to be proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 1028. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the Nation's surveillance and reporting for diseases and conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am introducing legislation today entitled the Strengthening America's Public Health System Act of 2009.

The ongoing swine flu pandemic makes clear the necessity for a robust public health system in the U.S. This legislation is designed to strengthen epidemiology and laboratory capacity in State and local health departments and, correspondingly, national surveillance and reporting of infectious diseases and other conditions of public health importance.

Currently, many parts of the local-state-federal disease surveillance system are fragmented and paper-based, and have not fully benefited from new

technologies that could improve the completeness and timeliness of reporting. A 2007 survey found that 20 states are manually reporting diagnostic findings, albeit with a web interface, and 16 are completely paper-based. Only 2 State public health laboratories have bidirectional data flow and can both send and receive laboratory messages, the gold standard for disease reporting. The potential for new pathogen discovery, rapid electronic exchange of public health information, national bacterial and viral databases for DNA "fingerprinting" of infectious disease organisms has not been fully realized. My legislation focuses on improving electronic disease surveillance and reporting so that all state and local health departments and public health laboratories can readily and seamlessly receive, monitor, and report infectious diseases and other urgent conditions of public health importance. The bill also authorizes a process for determining a list of nationally notifiable diseases and conditions and, creates a national committee to evaluate best practices in public health surveillance.

The Strengthening America's Public Health System Act calls for the expansion of resources, renewed focus and mission, and new areas of special emphasis for several existing programs within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC. These programs support public health capacity to identify and monitor the occurrence of infectious diseases and other conditions of public health importance; detect new and emerging infectious disease threats, including laboratory capacity to detect antimicrobial resistant infections; identify and respond to disease outbreaks; and hire and train necessary professional staff.

The outbreak of swine flu that originated in Mexico highlights the need for cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico in the surveillance, reporting and control of infectious diseases that cross the border. Clear standards, however, have not yet been established for what information should be shared and how the sharing should take place. My legislation tasks the CDC to finalize and adopt the "Guidelines for U.S.-Mexico Coordination on Epidemiological Events of Mutual Interest" so that we have a clear mechanism in place for communication with public health officials in Mexico.

This important legislation has been endorsed by the: American Association of Public Health Veterinarians, American Public Health Association, American Society for Microbiology, Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology, Association of Public Health Laboratories, Association of Schools of Public Health, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, Infectious Diseases Society of America, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Alliance of

State and Territorial AIDS Directors, National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, National Public Health Information Coalition, Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, and Trust for America's Health.

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. 1028

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 "Strengthening America's Public Health System Act".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purpose of the programs authorized under this Act is to strengthen public health surveillance systems and disease reporting by—

(1) delineating existing grant mechanisms at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention designed to enhance disease surveillance and reporting by improving and modernizing capacity at the State and local level—

(A) to identify and monitor the occurrence of infectious diseases and other conditions of public health importance;

(B) to detect new and emerging infectious disease threats; and

(C) to identify and respond to disease outbreaks;

(2) expanding eligibility for grantees;

(3) increasing funding to ensure all States and jurisdictions have appropriate surveillance and reporting capacity and can provide comprehensive electronic reporting, including laboratory reporting;

(4) delineating existing applied epidemiology, laboratory science, and informatics fellowship programs designed to reduce documented workforce shortages for these essential public health professionals at the State and local level and increasing funding for these programs;

(5) expanding the Epidemic Intelligence Service;

(6) delineating a refined process for establishing a list of nationally notifiable diseases and conditions;

(7) improving binational surveillance of diseases in the United States and Mexico border region, including developing improved standards and protocols for binational epidemiology, surveillance, laboratory analyses, and control of infectious diseases between the two nations; and

(8) establishing a forum to permit review and identification of best surveillance practices with a particular focus on improving coordination of animal-human disease surveillance.

SEC. 3. STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS.

Title XXVIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Subtitle C—Strengthening Public Health Surveillance Systems

"SEC. 2821. EPIDEMIOLOGY-LABORATORY CAPACITY GRANTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall establish an Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grant Program to award grants to eligible entities to assist public health agencies in improving surveillance for, and response to, infectious diseases and other conditions of public health importance by—