

EC-2436. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Recruitment and Selection through Competitive Examination" (RIN3206-AL13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2437. A communication from the General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to action on a nomination for the position of Deputy Director for Management, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2438. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-Annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. AKAKA, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 252. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to recruit and retain nurses and other critical health-care professionals, to improve the provision of health care veterans, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111-60).

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. LANDRIEU (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1513. A bill to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1514. A bill to ensure safe, secure, and reliable marine shipping in the Arctic including the availability of aids to navigation, vessel escorts, spill response capability, and maritime search and rescue in the Arctic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1515. A bill to amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 to authorize funds to acquire hydrographic data and provide hydrographic services specific to the Arctic for safe navigation, delineating the United States extended continental shelf, and the monitoring and description of coastal changes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1516. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons who have been released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1517. A bill to enhance domestic energy security by increasing production from fos-

sil-based resources in the outer Continental Shelf in an economically and environmentally responsible manner; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 223. A resolution designating September 2009 as "National Child Awareness Month" to promote awareness of charities benefitting children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States and recognizing efforts made by these charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of our Nation; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOND (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. Res. 224. A resolution recognizing the increasingly beneficial relationship between the United States and the Republic of Indonesia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Con. Res. 35. A concurrent resolution authorizing printing of the pocket version of the United States Constitution; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 182

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) 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. 211

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services and volunteer services, and for other purposes.

S. 316

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 316, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduction in the rate of tax on qualified timber gain of corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 540

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to liability under State and local requirements respecting devices.

S. 604

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 604, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to reform the manner in which the Board of Gov-

ernors of the Federal Reserve System is audited by the Comptroller General of the United States and the manner in which such audits are reported, and for other purposes.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to provide 100,000,000 people with first-time access to safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis by 2015 by improving the capacity of the United States Government to fully implement the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005.

S. 700

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) 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. 801

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 801, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to waive charges for humanitarian care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to family members accompanying veterans severely injured after September 11, 2001, as they receive medical care from the Department and to provide assistance to family caregivers, and for other purposes.

S. 950

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 950, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize physical therapists to evaluate and treat Medicare beneficiaries without a requirement for a physician referral, and for other purposes.

S. 1005

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1005, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act to improve water and wastewater infrastructure in the United States.

S. 1023

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1023, a bill to establish a non-profit corporation to communicate United States entry policies and otherwise promote leisure, business, and scholarly travel to the United States.

S. 1065

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator

from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1065, a bill to authorize State and local governments to direct divestiture from, and prevent investment in, companies with investments of \$20,000,000 or more in Iran's energy sector, and for other purposes.

S. 1121

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1121, a bill to amend part D of title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants for the repair, renovation, and construction of elementary and secondary schools, including early learning facilities at the elementary schools.

S. 1215

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1215, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to repeal a certain exemption for hydraulic fracturing, and for other purposes.

S. 1239

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1239, a bill to amend section 340B of the Public Health Service Act to revise and expand the drug discount program under that section to improve the provision of discounts on drug purchases for certain safety net providers.

S. 1265

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1265, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide members of the Armed Forces and their family members equal access to voter registration assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1379, a bill to encourage energy efficiency and conservation and development of renewable energy sources for housing, commercial structures, and other buildings, and to create sustainable communities.

S. 1428

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1428, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to phase out the use of mercury in the manufacture of chlorine and caustic soda, and for other purposes.

S. 1439

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1439, a bill to provide for duty-free treatment of certain recreational performance outerwear, and for other purposes.

S. 1490

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

(Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1490, a bill to prevent and mitigate identity theft, to ensure privacy, to provide notice of security breaches, and to enhance criminal penalties, law enforcement assistance, and other protections against security breaches, fraudulent access, and misuse of personally identifiable information.

S. 1505

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1505, a bill to provide immigration reform by securing America's borders, clarifying and enforcing existing laws, and enabling a practical employer verification program, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1701

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1701 intended to be proposed to S. 1390, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 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. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1516. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons who have been released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, in a democracy, no right is more important than the right to vote; in our democracy, no right has been so dearly won. This country was founded on the idea that a just government derives its power from the consent of the governed, a principle codified in the very first words of our Constitution: "We the People of the United States." From the Civil War through the women's suffrage movement through the Voting Rights Act of 1965 through the 26th Amendment, the continuing expansion of the franchise, a broadening of who "we the people" are, is one of our great American narratives.

Today I introduce the Democracy Restoration Act of 2009. This bill will guarantee that citizens who are not incarcerated have the right to vote in Federal elections. I am proud that the junior Senator from Rhode Island, Sen. WHITEHOUSE, and the junior Senator from Maryland, Sen. CARDIN, have agreed to cosponsor this legislation.

Once, only wealthy white men could vote. Once, African Americans, ethnic minorities, women, young people, the poor, and the uneducated were all excluded. Today, we look back at those times and wonder how our country could have denied its citizens such a fundamental right for so long. Yet

today, we continue to disenfranchise an estimated four million of our fellow citizens who were convicted of felonies but are no longer in prison. Two million of these people have fully served their sentences, and the other two million are on probation, parole, or supervised release. These people are living and working in the community, paying taxes, and contributing to society. But they cannot vote.

At this time, 10 States still strip some people who have entirely completed their sentences—who have paid their debt to society—of their right to vote. Some 35 States deny the vote to people on parole, and 30 of those states also deny the vote to people on probation. I believe that the practice of stripping our fellow citizens of their voting rights is un-American. It weakens our democracy. It is an anachronism, one of the last vestiges of a medieval jurisprudence that declared convicted criminals to be outlaws, irrevocably expelled from society. This principle was called "civil death."

Back then, in the despotisms of medieval Europe, it was reserved for the worst crimes. Yet today, here, in the greatest democracy in the world, we continue to sentence 4 million people—people who have served their time, people who are contributing members of society—to civil death.

One might ask how something as undemocratic as civil death could have survived to the present day. Unfortunately the practice of disenfranchising people with felony convictions has an explicitly racist history. Like the grandfather clause, the literacy test, and the poll tax, civil death became a tool of Jim Crow.

Across the country, thirteen percent of African-American men are disenfranchised because of a felony conviction. In 14 States, civil death provisions have stripped more than ten percent of the entire African-American voting-age population of the right to vote. In 4 States, civil death provisions disenfranchise more than 20 percent of eligible African-American voters.

The architects of Jim Crow would be proud of their handiwork, and how it has lasted long after the rest of their evil system was dismantled. The rest of us should be ashamed, and yes, outraged. If we believe in redemption, we should be outraged. Because civil death has denied 4 million Americans a chance at redemption. If we believe in progress, we should be outraged. Because civil death keeps this country chained to the worst moments of our past. If we believe in democracy, we should be outraged. Because civil death strikes at the heart of our democracy.

There is a growing movement across the country to expand the franchise and restore voting rights to people coming out of prison and reentering the community. In the last decade, 16 states have reformed their laws to expand the franchise or ease voting rights restoration procedures. This bill continues that movement. It provides