

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 148. A bill to restore the rule that agreements between manufacturers and retailers, distributors, or wholesalers to set the minimum price below which the manufacturer's product or service cannot be sold violates the Sherman Act (Rept. No. 111-227).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 193. A bill to create and extend certain temporary district court judgeships.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1346. A bill to penalize crimes against humanity and for other purposes.

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. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. JOHANNIS, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 3621. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3622. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to finalize a proposed rule to amend the spill prevention, control, and countermeasure rule to tailor and streamline the requirements for the dairy industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 3623. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the payroll tax relief under the HIRE Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEMINT (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 3624. A bill to encourage continued investment and innovation in communications networks by establishing a new, competition analysis-based regulatory framework for the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mr. McCAIN):

S. 3625. A bill to enhance public safety by making more spectrum available to public safety agencies, to facilitate the development of a public safety broadband network, to provide for the spectrum needs of public safety agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 3626. A bill to encourage the implementation of thermal energy infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COBURN:

S. 3627. A bill to ensure that United States global HIV/AIDS assistance prioritizes sav-

ing lives by focusing on access to treatment; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 3628. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit foreign influence in Federal elections, to prohibit government contractors from making expenditures with respect to such elections, and to establish additional disclosure requirements with respect to spending in such elections, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. HATCH:

S.J. Res. 35. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to a balanced budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. BENNETT):

S. Res. 589. A resolution to authorize the printing of a revised edition of the Nomination and Election of the President and Vice President of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. Res. 590. A resolution designating September 2010 as "Gospel Music Heritage Month" and honoring gospel music for its valuable contributions to the culture of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. Res. 591. A resolution recognizing and honoring the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; placed on the calendar.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 653

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 653, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner, and for other purposes.

S. 752

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 752, a bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes.

S. 2095

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2095, a bill to amend the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 to authorize appropriations through fiscal year 2015.

S. 3034

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3034, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to strike medals in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States

and the establishment of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center.

S. 3036

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3036, a bill to establish the Office of the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 3188

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3188, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an investment tax credit for biomass heating property.

S. 3232

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3232, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 3238

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3238, a bill to provide for a medal of appropriate design to be awarded by the President to the next of kin or other representative of those individuals killed as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and to the memorials established at the 3 sites that were attacked on that day.

S. 3335

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3335, a bill to require Congress to establish a unified and searchable database on a public website for congressional earmarks as called for by the President in his 2010 State of the Union Address to Congress.

S. 3339

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3339, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain small producers.

S. 3409

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3409, a bill to make certain adjustments to the price analysis of propane prepared by the Secretary of Commerce.

S. 3434

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3434, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Home Star Retrofit Rebate Program, and for other purposes.

S. 3501

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) and the Senator from

Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3501, a bill to protect American job creation by striking the job-killing Federal employer mandate.

S. 3502

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3502, a bill to restore Americans' individual liberty by striking the Federal mandate to purchase insurance.

S. 3572

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3572, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the establishment of the Nation's first law enforcement agency, the United States Marshals Service.

S. 3583

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3583, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase flexibility in payments for State veterans homes, and for other purposes.

S. 3585

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3585, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reform Department of Defense energy policy, and for other purposes.

S. 3620

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. LEMIEUX) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3620, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study on the economic competitiveness and innovative capacity of the United States and to develop a national economic competitiveness strategy, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 519

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 519, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the primary safeguard for the well-being and protection of children is the family, and that the primary safeguards for the legal rights of children in the United States are the Constitutions of the United States and the several States, and that, because the use of international treaties to govern policy in the United States on families and children is contrary to principles of self-government and federalism, and that, because the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child undermines traditional principles of law in the United States regarding parents

and children, the President should not transmit the Convention to the Senate for its advice and consent.

S. RES. 579

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 579, a resolution honoring the life of Manute Bol and expressing the condolences of the Senate on his passing.

S. RES. 586

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 586, a resolution supporting democracy, human rights, and civil liberties in Egypt.

AMENDMENT NO. 4492

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4492 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. JOHANNES, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 3621. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation with my friend, Senator MIKE CRAPO of Idaho, that will exempt Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program, VMLRP, awards from Federal income taxation. I drafted this bipartisan bill with the intention of increasing veterinary services in underserved shortage areas that lack adequate veterinary expertise.

The United States Department of Agriculture's, USDA, Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program was authorized in 2003 by the National Veterinary Medical Services Act, NVMSA, to help qualified veterinarians offset a significant amount of the debt they accrue while pursuing their degrees if they in turn serve in high-priority veterinary shortage areas for a certain length of time. It also authorizes additional loan repayments for service in Federal emergency situations. However, the awards are currently taxed at a rate of 39 percent. This taxation is counterproductive and only delays delivery of veterinary services to areas that are in desperate need.

In determining whether an area is eligible for assistance under the VMLRP, USDA has the ability to declare "shortage situations," in which the Department makes declarations of veterinary shortage areas. Currently, there are two circumstances that lead to such designations. The first is by geography, when a given geographic area suffers a shortage of veterinarians overall. The second occurs when areas suffer a shortage of veterinarians who practice in a particular field of veterinary specialty. My home State of South Dakota currently has four designated shortage situations. Two of these designations are statewide designations noting a shortage of practitioners in veterinary specialties. On a national scale, there are 1,300 counties in the United States that have less than one food animal veterinarian per 25,000 farm animals. Bear in mind, the demand for veterinarians across our country could increase 14 percent by 2016.

South Dakota is truly a wonderful place to call home, but it is not always an easy place to earn a living. This is especially true for young people who are just starting out and are saddled with crushing levels of school debt. I have long fought for legislation that makes it easier for students to pay off their loans and to encourage others who may be reluctant to pursue higher education degrees, due to a lack of financial resources, especially when it comes to costly professional degrees including veterinary medicine. My legislation will help students pursue their educational goals, while also providing important services to underserved rural areas by enhancing the assistance veterinary graduates receive in exchange for meaningful public service.

Agriculture is the top contributor to our South Dakota economy. For those farmers and ranchers who make their living in agriculture, this is more than a job; it is a way of life. Our ranchers, many of whom operate in very rural areas, rely on the access they have to qualified veterinarians to care for their livestock. Adequate access to veterinary care in rural areas is critical for both human and animal health, as well as animal welfare, disease surveillance, public safety and economic development across America. Everyone in America benefits from the veterinary services provided in even the most remote areas of our nation. As such, I am committed to doing all I can to help bring veterinarians to underserved parts of our state.

I am proud to have fought for the establishment of the VMLRP program, and through my seat on the Senate Appropriations Committee. I have worked year after year to secure its proper funding. Unfortunately, however, the taxes assessed on these benefits prevent us from using congressionally appropriated funding to the fullest extent. For every three veterinarians selected for the loan repayment awards, an additional veterinarian could also