

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2012. A bill to require that labels on children's sleepwear that indicate the sleepwear is flame resistant to include the chemical name of the flame retardant used, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2013. A bill to amend title 32, United States Code, the body of laws of the United States dealing with the National Guard, to recognize the City of Salem, Massachusetts, as the Birthplace of the National Guard of the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 2014. A bill to reform the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 2015. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to the Powell Recreation District in the State of Wyoming; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2016. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase access to healthy food for families, to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act and the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to increase access to credit for small and new farmers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 2017. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2018. A bill to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2019. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe regulations to reduce helicopter noise pollution in certain residential areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2020. A bill to protect all school children against harmful and life-threatening seclusion and restraint practices; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2021. A bill to nullify certain regulations regarding the mandatory replacement of certain traffic signs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2022. A bill to establish a demonstration program to test the viability of community integrated small-house nursing care homes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2023. A bill to establish a safety performance rating system for motorcoach services and operations; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

S. 2024. A bill to make technical amendments to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 2025. A bill to postpone the remapping of areas protected by certain levees for purposes of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2026. A bill to ensure that representative payees under the Social Security program are subject to criminal background checks; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 228

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 228, a bill to preempt regulation of, action relating to, or consideration of greenhouse gases under Federal and common law on enactment of a Federal policy to mitigate climate change.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 431, 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 Federal law enforcement agency, the United States Marshals Service.

S. 672

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 672, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 707

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of S. 707, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide further protection for puppies.

S. 1096

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1096, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and utilization of, bone

mass measurement benefits under the Medicare part B program by extending the minimum payment amount for bone mass measurement under such program through 2013.

S. 1265

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1265, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 1318

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1318, a bill to enhance pre- and post-adoptive support services.

S. 1403

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1403, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 1597

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1597, a bill to provide assistance for the modernization, renovation, and repair of elementary school and secondary school buildings in public school districts and community colleges across the United States in order to support the achievement of improved educational outcomes in those schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1616

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1616, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts from the tax on foreign investments in United States real property interests, and for other purposes.

S. 1833

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1833, a bill to provide additional time for compliance with, and coordinating of, the compliance schedules for certain rules of the Environmental Protection Agency.

S. 1903

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1903, a bill to prohibit commodities and securities trading based on nonpublic information relating to Congress, to require additional reporting by Members and employees of Congress of securities transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 1925

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island

(Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1925, a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

S. 1930

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1930, a bill to prohibit earmarks.

S. 1941

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1941, a bill to amend the securities laws to establish certain thresholds for shareholder registration, and for other purposes.

S. 1956

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1956, a bill to prohibit operators of civil aircraft of the United States from participating in the European Union's emissions trading scheme, and for other purposes.

S. 1961

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1961, a bill to provide level funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

S. 1988

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1988, a bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to consider private landownership and private use of land in issuing hydropower licenses, and for other purposes.

S. 1994

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1994, a bill to prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections.

S. 2003

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2003, a bill to clarify that an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority shall not authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States and for other purposes.

S. 2004

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2004, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the troops who defended Bataan during World War II.

S. RES. 310

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 310, a resolution designating 2012 as the "Year of the Girl" and congratulating Girl Scouts of the USA on its 100th anniversary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 2014. A bill to reform the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Postal Investment Act of 2011 which lays out many ideas to help strengthen the United States Postal Service through investment and innovation.

For many years, I have been an advocate for the Postal Service, its workers, and importantly, postal customers. The Postal Service represents a multi-billion dollar industry on which all Americans rely for delivery of mail and packages. Unfortunately, in recent years, the downturn in the overall economy has negatively impacted the postal business, exacerbating a decline in the mail because of electronic diversion.

The 21st Century Postal Service Act, S. 1789, passed in November by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, contains many needed postal reforms and sensible compromises. Unfortunately, that bill also contained an unrelated measure reducing benefits for disabled and injured federal workers. As Chairman of the Federal Workforce Subcommittee, this issue concerned me enough that I had to vote against reporting the bill to the full Senate. However, I did think the bill contained important provisions that will help the Postal Service and I look forward to further debate. I am introducing the Postal Investment Act to add to that conversation. While this bill is not a comprehensive approach that can rescue the Postal Service on its own, it represents several new ideas that have not yet been debated.

Since 2006, we have required the Postal Service to pay roughly \$5 billion per year in to an account to prefund its retiree health benefit liability. This is a payment that no other agency, and few private sector companies, must make. While prefunding this liability was a worthy goal, and it addressed an accounting problem in the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, it is crippling the Postal Service financially. The core of the Postal Investment Act would restructure the retirement health benefit prefunding requirement and allow for the funds set aside against the future liability to be invested in a diverse mix of government and non-government securities, instead of only in government securities as is now the case.

There are promising precedents for investing funds in this way in the Federal Government. In 2001, we passed the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act, which created a trust fund to invest railroad employee retirement assets in non-government securities. Assets of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation also are invested in a diversified manner. Even in

the turbulent economic times of the past few years, these funds have seen healthy returns on average, at a much higher rate than government securities alone.

I want to emphasize that the funds invested are there to cover a future liability to provide benefits to workers, some of whom have not been hired yet. Because of the long time horizon and significant assets of this fund, I believe that diversifying its investment would mean positive growth for the fund over time, and would bring it in line with many private sector retirement accounts. If we want the Postal Service to act more like a business, we could start by allowing it similar flexibility.

In addition to investing the fund, my bill would also suspend payments to the prefunding account in any years in which the Postal Service does not have the profits to invest. Unfortunately, under current law, the fund which was set up to insure against future default of the Postal Service is the very thing putting the Postal Service on the brink of default. I believe this new approach is a responsible way forward, which also recognizes the legitimate goal of prefunding this liability over a longer term.

Just as importantly, the Postal Service needs more flexibility in its business model to innovate. My bill contains several provisions to accelerate innovation in the Postal Service's products. Many of these are based on recommendations provided to Congress in a Postal Regulatory Commission, PRC, report released earlier this year. The bill would allow for pricing flexibilities for increased premium services subject to performance requirements. It would also explicitly allow the Postal Service, through the PRC, to create new classes of mail to meet evolving customer demands. For instance, there may be a market for a product with the speed of first class mail, but with none of the additional services that are part of first class. The bill also encourages the further development of experimental products to find new sources of revenue.

In order to create more accountability for product innovation, the bill would require the Postmaster General to designate a Chief Product Innovation officer to come up with new ideas and keep the public better informed of what the Postal Service is doing to find new products and services. My bill would also require more focus on retaining revenues for existing products by reducing uncollected postage.

Finally, my bill contains several provisions related to the postal workforce. Like several other proposals introduced already, the bill would allow the Postal Service access to excess payments it has made over the years to the Federal Employee Retirement System. It would use those funds first to offer voluntary retirement incentives to employees to help right-size the workforce.