

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designations of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Georgia; Atlanta; Determination of Attainment by Applicable Attainment Date for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standards" (FRL No. 9643-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5311. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designations of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; North Carolina and South Carolina; Charlotte; Determination of Attainment by Applicable Attainment Date for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standards" (FRL No. 9643-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5312. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9626-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5313. A communication from District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Sufficiency Review of the Reasonableness of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority's (DC Water) Fiscal Year 2012 Revenue Estimate Totalling \$426,416,477"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5314. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-320 "District of Columbia Public Schools and Public Charter School Student Residency Fraud Prevention Amendment Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5315. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-319 "Uniform Collaborative Law Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5316. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on crime victims' rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5317. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Department's activities during Calendar Year 2011 relative to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Jeffrey J. Helmick, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Patty Shwartz, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Mary Geiger Lewis, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Timothy S. Hillman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Thomas M. Harrigan, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of Drug Enforcement.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

#### 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. INHOFE:

S. 2174. A bill to exempt natural gas vehicles from certain maximum fuel economy increase standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado:

S. 2175. A bill to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 to provide for the trial of covered persons detained in the United States pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force and to repeal the requirement for military custody; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin):

S. 2176. A bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to require the President to certify that the Yucca Mountain site remains the designated site for the development of a repository for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 2177. A bill to strengthen the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 2178. A bill to require the Federal Government to expedite the sale of underutilized Federal real property; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WEBB (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. CARPER, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2179. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve oversight of educational assistance provided under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2180. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for professional school personnel in early childhood education, to expand the deduction for certain expenses of teachers to teachers in early childhood education, and to modify the credit for dependent care services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2181. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for loan forgiveness for early childhood educators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2182. A bill to establish a program to provide child care through public-private partnerships; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. Res. 391. A resolution condemning violence by the Government of Syria against journalists, and expressing the sense of the Senate on freedom of the press in Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. KIRK):

S. Res. 392. A resolution urging the Republic of Turkey to safeguard its Christian heritage and to return confiscated church properties; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 393. A resolution designating March 11, 2012 as "World Plumbing Day"; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 412

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 412, a bill to ensure that amounts credited to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are used for harbor maintenance.

S. 687

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 687, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property.

S. 839

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 839, a bill to ban the sale of certain synthetic drugs.

S. 881

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 881, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 922

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 922, a bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to authorize the Secretary of Labor to provide grants for Urban Jobs Programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1002, a bill to prohibit theft of medical products, and for other purposes.

S. 1086

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1086, a bill to reauthorize the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004, to provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1148

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1148, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of assistance to homeless veterans, to improve the regulation of fiduciaries who represent individuals for purposes of receiving benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1283

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1283, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to permit leave to care for a same-sex spouse, domestic partner, parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, grandchild, or grandparent who has a serious health condition.

S. 1301

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1301, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 through 2015 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes.

S. 1673

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1673, a bill to establish the Office of Agriculture Inspection within the Department of Homeland Security, which shall be headed by the Assistant Commissioner for Agriculture Inspection, and for other purposes.

S. 1880

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1880, a bill to repeal the health care law's job-killing health insurance tax.

S. 1884

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1884, a bill to provide States with incentives to require elementary schools and secondary schools

to maintain, and permit school personnel to administer, epinephrine at schools.

S. 1915

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to amend the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 to provide clarification regarding the applicability of exemptions relating to the transportation of agricultural commodities and farm supplies, and for other purposes.

S. 1935

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1935, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the March of Dimes Foundation.

S. 1956

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) 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. 2010

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2010, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 2027

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2027, a bill to improve microfinance and microenterprise, and for other purposes.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 2134

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2134, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements relating to the retirement, adoption, care, and recognition of military working dogs, and for other purposes.

S. 2150

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2150, a bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to clarify that the value of certain funeral and burial arrangements are not to be considered available resources under the supplemental security income program.

S. 2156

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2156, a bill to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, to set prices for Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps and make limited waivers of stamp requirements for certain users.

S. RES. 310

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1589

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1589 proposed to S. 1813, a bill to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1617

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1617 intended to be proposed to S. 1813, a bill to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1818

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1818 proposed to S. 1813, a bill to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1822

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1822 proposed to S. 1813, a bill to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WEBB (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. CARPER, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2179. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve oversight of educational assistance provided under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, today, I am introducing The Military and Veterans Educational Reform Act of 2012. This bi-partisan bill will ensure that all educational institutions receiving