

Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2019.

(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 Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 3196. A bill to establish the National Women's High-Growth Business Bipartisan Task Force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

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

S. 3197. A bill to reauthorize the women's business center program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

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

S. 3198. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to improve the entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COONS, Mr. HELLER, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 3199. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to stimulate international tourism to the United States and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 3200. A bill to require the Small Business Administration to submit a regular National Small Business Index to Congress to assess how policies provide incentives or impediments to small business development; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. KYL):

S. 3201. A bill to reform graduate medical education payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BURR, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3202. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that deceased veterans with no known next of kin can receive a dignified burial, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3203. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to limit increases in the certain costs of health care services under the health care programs of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. JOHANNES (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CORKER, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3204. A bill to address fee disclosure requirements under the Electronic Fund Transfer Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 3205. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that persons renouncing citizenship for a substantial tax avoidance purpose shall be subject to tax and withholding on capital gains, to provide that such persons shall not be admissible to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 3206. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay a monthly assistance allowance to disabled veterans training or competing for the Paralympic Team and the authorization of appropriations for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide assistance to United States Paralympics, Inc., and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. Res. 466. A resolution calling for the release from prison of former Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SNOWE, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. Res. 467. A resolution designating May 18, 2012, as "Endangered Species Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Pancreatic Cancer Initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 438

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 438, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve women's health by prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

S. 547

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 547, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish an award program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

S. 595

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 595, a bill to amend title VIII of the Elementary and Sec-

ondary Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary of Education to complete payments under such title to local educational agencies eligible for such payments within 3 fiscal years.

S. 693

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 693, a bill to establish a term certain for the conservatorships of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, to provide conditions for continued operation of such enterprises, and to provide for the wind down of such operations and dissolution of such enterprises.

S. 847

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 847, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to ensure that risks from chemicals are adequately understood and managed, and for other purposes.

S. 1335

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1335, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide rights for pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 1591

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1591, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg, in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.

S. 1989

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1989, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the minimum low-income housing tax credit rate for unsubsidized buildings and to provide a minimum 4 percent credit rate for existing buildings.

S. 1993

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1993, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lena Horne in recognition of her achievements and contributions to American culture and the civil rights movement.

S. 2010

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) 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. 2036

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Idaho

(Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2036, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

S. 2134

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) 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. 2179

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 2226

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2226, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from awarding any grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or other financial assistance under section 103 of the Clean Air Act for any program, project, or activity carried out outside the United States, including the territories and possessions of the United States.

S. 2234

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2234, a bill to prevent human trafficking in government contracting.

S. 2250

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2250, a bill to prevent homeowners from being forced to pay taxes on forgiven mortgage loan debt.

S. 2264

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2264, a bill to provide liability protection for claims based on the design, manufacture, sale, offer for sale, introduction into commerce, or use of certain fuels and fuel additives, and for other purposes.

S. 2325

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2325, a bill to authorize further assistance to Israel for the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system.

S. 2347

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2347, a bill to amend title XVIII of the

Social Security Act to ensure the continued access of Medicare beneficiaries to diagnostic imaging services.

S. 3083

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3083, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require certain nonresident aliens to provide valid immigration documents to claim the refundable portion of the child tax credit.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S. RES. 380

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 380, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons capability.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 380, *supra*.

S. RES. 399

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 399, a resolution calling upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 3196. A bill to establish the National Women's High-Growth Business Bipartisan Task Force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce S. 3196 and S. 3197. This legislation will strengthen the resources and support that we provide to women entrepreneurs, and to strengthen oversight of the SBA's technical assistance programs. The SBA's Entrepreneurial Development programs are a vital source of training and management support for entrepreneurs, and I am pleased to work with Chair LANDRIEU to improve these programs and ensure that the taxpayer dollars that support them are being utilized in the

most efficient and effective way possible.

The Women's Small Business Ownership Act of 2012 builds upon our commitment to providing assistance to women entrepreneurs, whose firms have grown at the rate of other firms. The SBA's Women's Business Center, WBC, program provides critical assistance to economically or socially disadvantaged entrepreneurs, especially women. The bill I am introducing today with Chair LANDRIEU holds funding for the WBC program at current levels for the next three years, in recognition that now is not the time to grow Federal programs, including proven ones like the SBA's technical assistance efforts.

Our bill also makes necessary improvements to the WBC program, such as establishing a process and criteria that the SBA must follow in administering grants under this program, and expanding eligible entities that can host Women's Business Centers to include local economic development organizations and community colleges. It also improves the transparency of project funds to ensure that WBC hosts are not comingling their grant funds with those for separate purposes and initiatives.

To further strengthen growth in women-owned businesses, we are also introducing the National Women's High-Growth Business Bipartisan Task Force Act of 2012. This legislation would repeal the National Women's Business Council and replace it with a Women's High-Growth Business Bipartisan Task Force charged with developing and promoting initiatives, policies, and programs designed to encourage the formation of startups and high-growth small business concerns owned by women.

Under current law, the Council receives funding to employ an executive director and four additional employees, who may receive a maximum pay rate of GS 15. However, most other advisory committees across the government and SBA operate without staff, and under this bill we will save taxpayers nearly \$1 million by transitioning the current Council into a Task Force, similar to the Interagency Veteran's Task Force at the SBA, which was established in 2008.

Additionally, this legislation places an emphasis on high-growth small businesses owned and controlled by women. Recently, the Kauffman Foundation, based in Kansas City, MO, researched the effects of startups as part of the American economy. These reports demonstrate the necessity of new and young start-ups to act as mechanisms for reviving the American economy; particularly those of high-growth entrepreneurs. In this rapidly growing area of high-growth firms, which often incorporate intellectual property endeavors, this bill ensures that women's small business concerns are being addressed, with an emphasis on achieving and maximizing high-growth potential.