

S. 255. A bill to withdraw certain Federal land and interests in that land from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and disposition under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) (by request):

S. 256. A bill to amend Public Law 93-435 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands, providing parity with Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 257. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require courses of education provided by public institutions of higher education that are approved for purposes of the educational assistance programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to charge veterans tuition and fees at the in-State tuition rate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. LEE, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 258. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing leases and permits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:

S. 259. A bill to assure equity in contracting between the Federal Government and small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 260. A bill to require the collection of data by officers enforcing immigration law and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 261. A bill to establish and clarify that Congress does not authorize persons convicted of dangerous crimes in foreign courts to freely possess firearms in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 262. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide equity for tuition and fees for individuals entitled to educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs who are pursuing programs of education at institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. THUNE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 263. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to modify the discretionary spending limits to take into account savings resulting from the reduction in the number of Federal employees; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 264. A bill to expand access to community mental health centers and improve the quality of mental health care for all Americans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 265. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for community-based mental health infrastructure im-

provement; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 266. A bill to provide for the inclusion of Israel in the visa waiver program, and for other purposes; 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. MORAN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 26. A resolution recognizing that access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. Res. 27. A resolution designating the week of February 4 through 8, 2013, as "National School Counseling Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 40

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 40, a bill to restore Americans' individual liberty by striking the Federal mandate to purchase insurance.

S. 46

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 46, a bill to protect Social Security benefits and military pay and require that the United States Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

S. 47

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. COWAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 47, a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

S. 54

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 54, a bill to increase public safety by punishing and deterring firearms trafficking.

S. 80

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 80, a bill to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to provide for Debbie Smith grants for auditing sexual assault evidence backlogs and to establish a Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting System, and for other purposes.

S. 84

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 84, 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. 91

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 91, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify eligibility for the child tax credit.

S. 116

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 116, a bill to revise and extend provisions under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act.

S. 126

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 126, a bill to prohibit earmarks.

S. 134

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 134, a bill to arrange for the National Academy of Sciences to study the impact of violent video games and violent video programming on children.

S. 140

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 140, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the work opportunity credit to certain recently discharged veterans, to improve the coordination of veteran job training services between the Department of Labor, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense, to require transparency for Executive departments in meeting the Government-wide goals for contracting with small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 146

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 146, a bill to enhance the safety of America's schools.

S. 162

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 162, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004.

S. 164

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 164, a bill to prohibit the United States from providing financial assistance to Pakistan until Dr. Shakil Afridi is freed.

S. 169

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 169, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize additional visas for well-educated aliens to live and work in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 183

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 183, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for fairness in hospital payments under the Medicare program.

S. 190

At the request of Mr. JOHANNES, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 190, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for certain activities of the National Labor Relation Board and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

S. 191

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to codify and modify regulatory requirements of Federal agencies.

S. 195

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 195, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and violence to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

S. 209

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 209, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 210

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 210, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraudulent representations about having received military declarations or medals.

S. 218

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 218, a bill to

ensure that amounts credited to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are used for harbor maintenance.

S. 223

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 223, a bill to amend section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the visa waiver program, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 8

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 8, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress holds the sole authority to borrow money on the credit of the United States and shall not cede this power to the President.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID:

S. 234. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of our Nation's disabled veterans to once again discuss an end to an unjust and outdated policy known as "concurrent receipt." For the past 122 years, this practice has prevented veterans from receiving the full benefits earned through years of service and personal injury in defense of our Nation. The law requires that a retired disabled veteran reduce their retirement pay dollar-for-dollar by the amount of any disability compensation received, in many cases wiping out retirement pay altogether. This is simply wrong.

I have worked over the past decade to fight to change this outdated policy and commend the progress Congress has made on behalf of our Nation's veterans. In 2002, I was pleased that Congress passed a measure known as combat-related special compensation, or CSRC, allowing for disabled retired veterans to receive payments that are the financial equivalent of concurrent receipt. In 2003 I was pleased that Congress enacted a 10-year phase-in of concurrent receipt for military retirees whose disability is 50 percent or greater, and in 2004, Congress eliminated the 10-year waiting period for those veterans with 100 percent service-related

disability. Moreover, in 2008, concurrent receipt eligibility was expanded to include those who are 100 percent disabled due to unemployability and extended equivalent financial payments to those who are medically retired or have retired prematurely due to force reduction programs. Most recently, in 2012, I was pleased to offer an amendment to the fiscal year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act ensuring that our combat-disabled military retirees receive proper combat-related disability and retirement benefits by eliminating the "glitch" in the CRSC formula that can actually cause a reduction in their compensation amount when the VA increases their disability rating. While I am proud that the 10-year phase-in period for veterans who are rated 50-90 percent will finally come to fruition this year, I still believe that Congress has fallen short of meeting the commitment of providing full concurrent receipt to all of our Nation's heroes. This is unacceptable and that is why we have to take care of the hundreds of thousands of disabled veterans who still need our help.

For me, this is a simple matter of fairness. No other Federal retiree is forced to forfeit their retirement—only our disabled military retirees. Veterans' disability compensation is recompense for pain, suffering, and lost future earning power caused by a service-connected illness or injury. Few retirees can afford to live on their retired pay alone, and a severe disability only makes the problem worse by limiting or denying any post-service working life. There is no reason to deny veterans who have served their country honorably the right to the full value of their retirement pay simply because their service also led to disability.

Today I reintroduce the Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2013 in order to eliminate all restrictions to concurrent receipt. I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in supporting this bill. We must take action now and support the veterans who have given so much to our grateful Nation. This is the right thing to do.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 234

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR PAYMENT OF BOTH RETIRED PAY AND VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN MILITARY RETIREES WITH COMPENSABLE SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

(a) EXTENSION OF CONCURRENT RECEIPT AUTHORITY TO RETIREES WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES RATED LESS THAN 50 PERCENT.—

(1) REPEAL OF 50 PERCENT REQUIREMENT.—Section 1414 of title 10, United States Code,