

H.R. 1992. An act to amend the requirements relating to assessment of Israel's qualitative military edge over military threats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 3695. An act to provide a temporary extension of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 and amendments made by that Act, as previously extended and amended and with certain additional modifications and exceptions, to suspend permanent price support authorities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1360. A bill to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-124).

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

S. 1805. A bill to designate the Organ Mountains and other public land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System in the State of New Mexico, to establish the Organ Mountains—Desert Peaks National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1806. A bill to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act with respect to membership eligibility of certain institutions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. COBURN, Mrs. HAGAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BURR, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1807. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to eliminate the corn ethanol mandate for renewable fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 1808. A bill to prevent adverse treatment of any person on the basis of views held with respect to marriage; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 1809. A bill to amend chapter 77 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify certain due process rights of Federal employees serving in sensitive positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 1810. A bill to provide paid family and medical leave benefits to certain individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1811. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit voice communications through mobile communication devices on commercial passenger flights; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 1812. A bill to provide emergency funding for port of entry personnel and infrastructure; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 1813. A bill to establish a program to provide guarantees for debt issued by or on behalf of State catastrophe insurance programs to assist in the financial recovery from earthquakes and earthquake-related events; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1814. A bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Silver Alert plans throughout the United States and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 1815. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to include occupational therapists as behavioral and mental health professionals for purposes of the National Health Service Corps; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1816. A bill to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide for the registration of marks consisting of a flag, coat of arms, or other insignia of the United States, or any State or local government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1817. A bill to require the Secretary to implement standards for short-term custody of individuals held in facilities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1818. A bill to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 1819. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide eligibility for public broadcasting facilities to receive certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. COBURN, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 1820. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the costs of official portraits of Members of Congress, heads of executive agencies, and heads of agencies and offices of the legislative branch; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1821. A bill to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1822. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish fair and consistent eligibility requirements for graduate medical schools operating outside the United

States and Canada; 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. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 319. A resolution expressing support for the Ukrainian people in light of President Yanukovich's decision not to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 204

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 204, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 411

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 411, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 526

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 526, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 583

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 583, a bill to implement equal protection under the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution for the right to life of each born and preborn human person.

S. 641

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 641, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic

and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, and other programs, to promote education in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 912

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 912, a bill to allow multi-channel video programming distributors to provide video programming to subscribers on an a la carte basis, and for other purposes.

S. 994

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 994, a bill to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

S. 1005

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1005, a bill to establish more efficient and effective policies and processes for departments and agencies engaged in or providing support to, international conservation.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNES, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1046

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1046, a bill to clarify certain provisions of the Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act of 1994.

S. 1114

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1114, a bill to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

S. 1116

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1116, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the exclusion from gross income of parking and transportation fringe benefits and to provide for a common cost-of-living adjustment, and for other purposes.

S. 1187

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1187, a bill to prevent homeowners from being forced to pay taxes on forgiven mortgage loan debt.

S. 1406

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1476

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1476, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes.

S. 1491

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1491, a bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to improve United States-Israel energy cooperation, and for other purposes.

S. 1505

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1505, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to certain sporting good articles, and to exempt those articles from definition under that Act.

S. 1610

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1610, a bill to delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and for other purposes.

S. 1614

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1614, a bill to require Certificates of Citizenship and other Federal documents to reflect name and date of birth determinations made by a State court and for other purposes.

S. 1652

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1652, a bill to amend the National

Energy Conservation Policy Act to provide guidance on utility energy service contracts used by Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1659

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1659, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding proprietary institutions of higher education in order to protect students and taxpayers.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1697, a bill to support early learning.

S. 1728

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1728, a bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters, and for other purposes.

S. 1759

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1759, a bill to reauthorize the teaching health center program.

S. 1761

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1761, a bill to permanently extend the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009 and establish a private right of action to enforce compliance with such Act.

S. 1765

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1765, a bill to ensure the compliance of Iran with agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program.

S. 1766

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1766, a bill to provide for the equitable distribution of Universal Service funds to rural States.

S. 1779

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1779, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to exempt fire hydrants from the prohibition on the use of lead pipes, fittings, fixtures, solder, and flux.

S. 1797

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1797, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1798

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1798, a bill to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not counted as full-time employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1802

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1802, a bill to provide equal treatment for utility special entities using utility operations-related swaps, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 317

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 317, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the continuing relationship between the United States and Georgia.

AMENDMENT NO. 2384

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2384 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. COBURN, Mrs. HAGAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BURR, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1807. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to eliminate the corn ethanol mandate for renewable fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce The Corn Ethanol Mandate Elimination Act of 2013, a bill cosponsored by my distinguished colleagues: Senators TOM COBURN, KAY HAGAN, SUSAN COLLINS, PATRICK TOOMEY, JEFF FLAKE, BOB CORKER, RICHARD BURR, JAMES RISCH, and JOE MANCHIN.

This legislation would eliminate the Federal corn ethanol mandate from the Renewable Fuel Standard, RFS, while leaving the requirement that oil companies purchase and use low-carbon “advanced biofuel” in place.

Let me briefly explain why this legislation is necessary.

The Renewable Fuel Standard, a statute enacted in 2007, requires oil companies to use 16.55 billion gallons of renewable fuel in 2013. This annual requirement increases to 36 billion gallons in 2022.

Every year, the law directs that an increasing portion of this mandate be

met using low-carbon “advanced biofuel” that is not derived from corn starch and lowers lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent. I strongly support this provision to lower the carbon emissions from our fuel supply.

However, 14.4 billion gallons in 2014, and 15 billion gallons each year after, of the RFS mandate established in statute is met using corn ethanol, which amounts to a corn ethanol mandate.

There are two major problems with continuing to mandate the consumption of more and more corn ethanol in the United States each year.

First and foremost, the policy has led us to divert 44 percent of the U.S. corn crop from food to fuel, about twice the rate in 2006.

As the Associated Press laid out in a recent detailed investigation, the use of corn for ethanol is artificially pushing up food and feed prices while damaging the environment. The investigation found conservation lands are disappearing.

Before Congress enacted the corn ethanol mandate, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Conservation Reserve Program grew every year for nearly a decade. But in the first year after the corn ethanol mandate, more than 2 million acres were removed. Since Obama took office, 5 million more acres have been repurposed.

The AP also found that farmers have broken ground on virgin land, which it described as “the untouched terrain that represents, from an environmental standpoint, the country’s most important asset.”

Using government satellite data, the AP estimates that 1.2 million acres of virgin land in Nebraska and the Dakotas alone have been converted to fields of corn and soybeans since 2006.

Since 2005, the AP calculates that corn farmers increased their use of nitrogen fertilizer by more than two billion pounds.

The nitrates from this fertilizer wash into our rivers and flow to the Gulf of Mexico, where they feed algae. When the algae die, the decomposition consumes oxygen, leaving behind a “dead zone.”

This year, the AP reports the dead zone covered 5,800 square miles of sea floor, about the size of Connecticut.

Using more and more corn for ethanol, in drought years as well as years with bumper crops, has had economic consequences as well as environmental effects.

Higher feed prices have cost our beef, poultry, restaurant, and dairy industries dearly.

According to recent testimony in the House of Representatives, from October 2006 to July 2013, poultry and egg producers have had to bear the burden of higher feed costs totaling over \$50 billion.

Joel Brandenberger, the President of the National Turkey Federation, estimates that the RFS cost the turkey in-

dustry \$1.9 billion in increased feed expenses last year.

According to a recent Price-Waterhouse-Coopers study, the federal mandate on corn-based ethanol substantially raised prices and costs throughout the food supply chain. If the RFS mandate were left unchanged, it would increase chain restaurant industry costs by up to \$3.2 billion a year.

But the damage has probably been greatest in California, where dairymen are drowning under a combination of low milk prices and high feed costs.

The milk producers’ group Western United Dairymen reports that more than 400 dairies have gone out of business in the past 5 years, including 105 in the past year alone.

“California’s remaining 1,500 dairies are fighting for survival,” the group said in a recent statement.

The bottom line is increased feed prices associated with corn ethanol have bent this industry to its breaking point.

But the corn ethanol mandate in the Renewable Fuel Standard also presents an additional problem.

As Corporate Average Fuel Economy, CAFE, Standards required by the Ten in Ten Fuel Economy Act drive down gasoline consumption, oil companies face a “blend wall” as the RFS mandate exceeds the limit at which ethanol can be blended into the fuel supply—determined to be 10 percent of total gasoline consumption.

This blend wall is about 13.4 billion gallons of ethanol—well below the 2014 corn ethanol statutory mandate of 14.4 billion gallons.

According to EPA: “EPA does not currently foresee a scenario in which the market could consume enough ethanol . . . to meet the volumes . . . stated in the statute.” This situation is likely to increase gasoline prices.

While EPA has proposed using a creative statutory interpretation to reduce the RFS volumes in 2014, unfortunately EPA’s proposal would reduce the advanced biofuel side of the RFS mandate by more than 41 percent, while it proposes to reduce the corn ethanol portion of the mandate by only 10 percent.

The Corn Ethanol Mandate Elimination Act would address the blend wall directly, thereby allowing EPA to continue increasing volumes of low carbon advanced biofuel.

This legislation would eliminate the corn ethanol mandate, but it’s important to point out it would by no means eliminate the corn ethanol industry. Refiners will continue to blend corn ethanol into the fuel supply in the absence of a mandate for two reasons.

First, ethanol is the preferred octane booster used to increase the efficiency of gasoline.

Second, the wholesale price of ethanol is currently 65 cents per gallon less than the wholesale price of unblended gasoline, meaning blenders lower their costs and increase profits when they add ethanol to gasoline.