

S. 246. A bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-39).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 321. A bill to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-40).

S. 501. A bill to make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-41).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Finance, with amendments:

S. 995. A bill to establish congressional trade negotiating objectives and enhanced consultation requirements for trade negotiations, to provide for consideration of trade agreements, and for other purposes.

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 1267. A bill to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and for other purposes.

S. 1268. A bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 1269. A bill to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes.

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 (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1264. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a renewable electricity standard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1265. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to make certain certifications to Congress before retiring B-1, B-2, or B-52 bomber aircraft; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 1266. A bill to expand the HUBZone program for communities affected by base realignment and closure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1267. A bill to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1268. A bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1269. A bill to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. GARDNER:

S. 1270. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric pro-

duction incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 1271. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue regulations to prevent or minimize the venting and flaring of gas in oil and gas production operations in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1272. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effects of forward capacity auctions and other capacity mechanisms; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. AYOTTE:

S. 1273. A bill to establish the Strengthening America's Bridges Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 1274. A bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to reauthorize Federal agencies to enter into long-term contracts for the acquisition of energy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 1275. A bill to establish a Financing Energy Efficient Manufacturing Program in the Department of Energy to provide financial assistance to promote energy efficiency and onsite renewable technologies in manufacturing and industrial facilities; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 1276. A bill to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to increase energy exploration and production on the outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 1277. A bill to improve energy savings by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1278. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to provide for the conduct of certain lease sales in the Alaska outer Continental Shelf region, to make certain modifications to the North Slope Science Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. KAINE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 1279. A bill to provide for revenue sharing of qualified revenues from leases in the South Atlantic planning area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 1280. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish an annual production incentive fee with respect to Federal onshore and offshore land that is subject to a lease for production of oil or natural gas under which production is not occurring, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 1281. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a standard home office deduction; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 1282. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to consider the objective of improving the conversion, use, and storage of carbon dioxide produced from fossil fuels in carrying out research and development programs under that Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 1283. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to repeal certain programs, to establish a coal technology program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KING:

S. 1284. A bill to clarify the treatment of carbon emissions from forest biomass, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1285. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to enter into contracts to provide certain price stabilization support relating to electric generation units that use coal-based generation technology; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1286. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce the backlog of appeals of decisions of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs by facilitating pro bono legal assistance for veterans before the United States Court of Veterans Appeals and the Board of Veterans' Appeals, to provide the Secretary with authority to address unreasonably delayed claims, 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. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 176. A resolution designating September 2015 as "National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. COONS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BROWN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. KAINE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 177. A resolution designating the week of May 10 through May 16, 2015, as "National Police Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 27

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 27, a bill to make wildlife trafficking a predicate offense under racketeering and money laundering statutes and the Travel Act, to

provide for the use for conservation purposes of amounts from civil penalties, fines, forfeitures, and restitution under such statutes based on such violations, and for other purposes.

S. 141

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to repeal the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act providing for the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

S. 257

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 257, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 366

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 366, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 373

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 423, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 497

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

S. 578

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 578, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 609

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 609, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and increase the exclusion for benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr.

CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 622, a bill to strengthen families' engagement in the education of their children.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to strengthen the position of the United States as the world's leading innovator by amending title 35, United States Code, to protect the property rights of the inventors that grow the country's economy.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 740, a bill to improve the coordination and use of geospatial data.

S. 857

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 857, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of an initial comprehensive care plan for Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

S. 883

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 883, a bill to facilitate the reestablishment of domestic, critical mineral designation, assessment, production, manufacturing, recycling, analysis, forecasting, workforce, education, and research capabilities in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 889

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 889, a bill to provide regulatory relief to alternative fuel producers and consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 911

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 911, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue an order with respect to secondary cockpit barriers, and for other purposes.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1002, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 1032, a bill to expand the use of E-Verify, to hold employers accountable, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1040, a bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Academy of Sciences to study the vehicle handling requirements proposed by the Commission for recreational off-highway vehicles and to prohibit the adoption of any such requirements until the completion of the study, and for other purposes.

S. 1119

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1119, a bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission.

S. 1135

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1135, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for fairness in hospital payments under the Medicare program.

S. 1136

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1136, a bill relating to the modernization of C-130 aircraft to meet applicable regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1140

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1140, a bill to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term "waters of the United States", and for other purposes.

S. 1212

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1243

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1243, a bill to facilitate modernizing the electric grid, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 15, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

S. CON. RES. 16

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 16, a concurrent resolution stating the policy of the United States regarding the release of United States citizens in Iran.

S. RES. 168

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 168, a resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system.

S. RES. 174

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 174, a resolution recognizing May 2015 as “Jewish American Heritage Month” and honoring the contributions of Jewish Americans to the United States of America.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 1266. A bill to expand the HUBZone program for communities affected by base realignment and closure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce legislation to better tailor the HUBZone program to meet the needs of communities affected by the closure of U.S. military installations through the Base Closure and Realignment, or BRAC, process. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague from Maine, Senator KING, in introducing this legislation, the HUBZone Expansion Act of 2015.

This issue hits close to home for both Senator KING and me. When Loring Air Force Base closed in 1994 through the BRAC process, my home of Aroostook County lost 15 percent of its population. Senator KING lives in Brunswick, ME, which also experienced a considerable drop in population when it lost a major naval air station in 2011.

Military bases are often the economic heart of the towns and cities in

which they are located, and communities can struggle for years to overcome the closure of those facilities as the redevelopment process is often lengthy and riddled with bureaucratic hurdles.

In recognition of these challenges, Congress passed legislation providing HUBZone status for 5 years to military facilities closed through the BRAC process. This status allows small businesses located on former military bases or in “economically distressed communities” with high rates of poverty or unemployment to obtain certain Federal contracting preferences.

According to the Small Business Administration, there are currently 107 BRAC-related HUBZones in the U.S. Unfortunately, for many of the communities surrounding closed military bases, HUBZone status has not always had the intended effect. One of the reasons is simple. The law defines the geographic boundaries of a BRAC-related HUBZone to be the same as the boundaries of the closed base. When combined with the requirement that 35 percent of the employees of a qualifying business live within the HUBZone, redevelopment efforts are slowed or stalled. Very few people actually live on these former bases, making it difficult, if not impossible, for businesses and job seekers alike to meet the HUBZone requirements.

We have seen this very situation play out following the closure of the former Brunswick Naval Air Station, which closed as a result of the 2005 BRAC round. When the Navy left, Brunswick and its neighbor, Topsham, lost more than 2,400 military and civilian personnel. These two towns have a combined population of just 22,000, so losing these jobs has taken a significant economic toll. Because so few people live within the actual boundaries of the former naval air station, its HUBZone designation does not provide the help these communities need.

To address this first concern, our legislation would permit prospective employees who live just outside of the boundaries of the closed base to count toward the 35 percent requirement. Employees who live in the census tracts touching the boundaries of the closed base, and in census tracts that touch those census tracts, would be included, providing a large enough pool of potential workers for qualifying businesses to locate within the HUBZone.

A second reason that businesses have difficulty benefiting from the HUBZone program is because closed bases are given HUBZone status for a limited time, only 5 years. Local economic development agencies working to attract new businesses to a former base cannot begin until a base is closed, and this process can take many years. Because HUBZone preferences only apply for 5 years from closure, businesses often lose years of program eligibility. In fact, the Association of Defense Communities reports that in the seven

years following the 2005 BRAC round, only 1/3 of former base property has been transferred to local authorities for redevelopment. Our legislation would address this problem by extending the period of time for which a closed base is eligible for HUBZone status from 5 years after closure to 8 years.

Steve Levesque, the Executive Director of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, oversees the redevelopment of the former Brunswick Naval Air Station. Steve supports this legislation, explaining that BRAC facilities do not have adequate residential areas needed to support the 35 percent residency requirement and that businesses cannot “realize the HUBZone benefits for BRAC’d installations as envisioned by Congress.”

Heather Blease is a Mainer who has explained the need for these changes as well. Heather is an entrepreneur who opened a small business at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station in 2013. She has described the HUBZone law as “flawed,” because the limited number of residences on the base make it nearly impossible to meet the 35 percent residency requirement. She says that this proposed legislation “would make all the difference in the world” for her business, and would create needed jobs for Mainers.

The Association of Defense Communities also supports our effort to tailor the HUBZone program to make it more usable by closed military bases.

I ask my colleagues to support the HUBZone Expansion Act of 2015 to help communities and the people most affected get back on their feet after the loss of a military installation, closed through the BRAC process.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

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

ASSOCIATION OF DEFENSE COMMUNITIES,

May 5, 2015.

Hon. JOHN MCCAIN,
Chairman, Armed Services Committee, United States Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. JACK REED,
Ranking Member, Armed Services Committee, United States Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. MAC THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Armed Services Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. ADAM SMITH,
Ranking Member, Armed Services Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAIN, RANKING MEMBER REED, CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY AND RANKING MEMBER SMITH: On behalf of the Association of Defense Communities Board of Directors, I want to express my deep appreciation for your leadership to support defense communities across the country. As the leading organization serving communities with active, realigned or closed military installations, ADC represents more than 200 communities, states, regions and their partners.

Communities impacted by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process continue to face severe, long-term economic distress. To assist in these communities’ recovery, Congress authorized additional support in the Small Business Reauthorization Act