

By Mr. COCHRAN, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2017" (Rept. No. 115-1).

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. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LEE, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 147. A bill to prevent a taxpayer bailout of health insurance issuers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 148. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for qualified elementary and secondary education tuition; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 149. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide student loan deferment for victims of terrorist attacks; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 150. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an additional tool to prevent certain frauds against veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 151. A bill to provide appropriate information to Federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies, pursuant to investigating terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 152. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON:

S. 153. A bill to ensure reliable observation of hurricanes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 154. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to ensure small businesses affected by the onset of transmissible diseases are eligible for disaster relief; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 155. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to pay higher wages to their employees; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 156. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to implement security measures in the electronic tax return filing process to prevent tax refund fraud from being perpetrated with electronic identity theft; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. LEE):

S. 157. A bill to allow seniors to file their Federal income tax on a new Form 1040SR; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 158. A bill to eliminate the payroll tax for individuals who have attained retirement age, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to remove the limitation upon the

amount of outside income which an individual may earn while receiving benefits under such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 159. A bill to terminate Operation Choke Point; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 160. A bill to reform the inspection process of housing assisted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 161. A bill to improve hurricane forecasting and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 162. A bill to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 163. A bill to amend chapter 31 of title 5, United States Code, to establish in statute the Presidential Innovation Fellows Program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. ENZI, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 164. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue the final rules relating to the listing of the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes and the State of Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 165. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require an element in pre-separation counseling for members of the Armed Forces on assistance and support services for caregivers of certain veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 166. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Muhammad Ali; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 167. A bill to designate a National Memorial to Fallen Educators at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 168. A bill to amend and enhance certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 169. A bill to counter anti-Semitism at the United Nations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. NELSON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. HATCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 170. A bill to provide for nonpreemption of measures by State and local governments to divest from entities that engage in commerce-related or investment-related boycott,

divestment, or sanctions activities targeting Israel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. NELSON, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 171. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, to reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 172. A bill to require the President to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and to make that Agreement ineligible for expedited consideration by Congress; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 173. A bill to require the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP code for particular communities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 174. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. NELSON, Mr. BURR, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 175. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 176. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. UDALL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S.J. Res. 5. A joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment; 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. DAINES (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RISCH, Mr.

TILLIS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. LEE, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. Con. Res. 5. A concurrent resolution affirming the importance of religious freedom as a fundamental human right that is essential to a free society and protected for all people of the United States under the Constitution of the United States, and recognizing the 231st anniversary of the enactment of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 11

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 11, a bill to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, to relocate to Jerusalem the United States Embassy in Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 17

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCHE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 17, a bill to ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to information.

S. 47

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 47, a bill to prevent proposed regulations relating to restrictions on liquidation of an interest with respect to estate, gift, and generation-skipping transfer taxes from taking effect.

S. 66

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 66, 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.

S. 71

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 71, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily allow expensing of certain costs of replanting citrus plants lost by reason of casualty.

S. 87

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 87, a bill to ensure that State

and local law enforcement may cooperate with Federal officials to protect our communities from violent criminals and suspected terrorists who are illegally present in the United States.

S.J. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Death with Dignity Act of 2016.

S. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 6, a resolution objecting to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 and to all efforts that undermine direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians for a secure and peaceful settlement.

S. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 9, a resolution honoring in praise and remembrance the extraordinary life, steady leadership, and remarkable, 70-year reign of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. NELSON, Mr. BURR, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 175. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I am back again to introduce the Miners Protection Act.

It is bipartisan. We worked on it in a bipartisan manner, and we said: If it comes to the floor, we will pass it. So we are here again.

This is a promise that was made since 1946. These are men who have worked hard. They paid through the hard work they have accomplished through their own sweat, and we are trying to make sure they have their permanent fix to their health care and to their pensions. This is something that has a pay-for. It is back up again. It should have been done last year. We had an extension at the end until April. April is going to come and go again, and then we are going to start playing politics with this. If we get this done

now and get it done quickly, it is something that we can move on, and we can take care of the other problems we have.

Again, this is the Miners Protection Act, which our miners have worked for, earned, and deserved. Their widows and families are expecting this. They need this in order to live any type of a quality life.

I thank you, again. I thank all of my colleagues—my Republican friends for signing onto this piece of legislation and all of my Democratic caucus, which unanimously signed onto it. It is something that should be done and done quickly.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 176. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. 176

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 “Helping Ensure Long-Term Protection for Coal Miners Health Care Act of 2017” or the “HELP for Coal Miners Health Care Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Over the 8 years preceding the date of the introduction of this Act, the coal industry and the communities supported by that industry have struggled, in large part due to overregulation.

(2) Excessive regulation has, in large part, made coal more expensive to mine and use and has put it at an unfair disadvantage in the marketplace.

(3) Because of these struggles—

(A) the coal mining industry has lost over 30,000 jobs since President Obama’s inauguration;

(B) over 600 coal mines have shuttered since President Obama’s inauguration;

(C) more than 25 coal mining companies have filed for bankruptcy since President Obama’s inauguration;

(D) Kentucky alone has lost over 10,000 coal mining jobs since President Obama’s inauguration; and

(E) the total number of operating coal mines has hit its lowest point on record.

(4) Because of the health risks often associated with mining, robust health benefits are vital to coal miner retirees; however, coal company bankruptcies, job cuts, and closures have exhausted the ability of many coal companies to continue providing health benefits to retirees and their dependents.

(5) Congress has stepped in twice before, in 1992 and in 2006, to assist retired miners and to secure their health benefits. When thousands more were at risk of losing their benefits at the end of 2016, Congress intervened again to provide a 4-month extension in health benefits for orphaned retired miners and their dependents.

(6) While this extension helped prevent the loss of health benefits for thousands of miners, it did not provide a long-term solution.