

S. 2116. A bill to clarify and enhance the authorities of the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. 2117. A bill to authorize the construction of the Perkins County Rural Water System and authorize financial assistance to the Perkins County Rural Water System, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, in the planning and construction of the water supply system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CHAFEE (for himself, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. MACK, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 2118. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on vaccines to 25 cents per dose; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Mr. CAMPBELL):

S. 2119. A bill to amend the Amateur Sports Act to strengthen provisions protecting the right of athletes to compete, recognize the Paralympics and growth of disabled sports, improve the U.S. Olympic Committee's ability to resolve certain disputes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. FRIST):

S. 2120. A bill to improve the ability of Federal agencies to license federally-owned inventions; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BREAUX:

S. 2121. A bill to encourage the development of more cost effective commercial space launch industry in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ROTH (for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 2122. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that certain liquidating distributions of a regulated investment company or real estate investment trust which are allowable as a deduction shall be included in the gross income of a distributee; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 2123. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve accountability and reform certain programs; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2124. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for the Maritime Administration and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. 2125. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of section 42 housing cooperatives and the shareholders of such cooperatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROTH,

Mr. COVERDELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 235. A resolution commemorating 100 years of relations between the people of the United States and the people of the Philippines; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. Res. 236. A resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding English plus other languages; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. Res. 237. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the situation in Indonesia and East Timor; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LOTT:

S. Con. Res. 99. A concurrent resolution authorizing the flying of the POW/MIA flag; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. NICKLES):

S. 2112. A bill to make the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 applicable to the United States Postal Service in the same manner as any other employer; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

POSTAL EMPLOYEES SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Postal Employees Safety Enhancement Act of 1998.

Mr. President, this bipartisan legislation, cosponsored by my colleagues Senators BINGAMAN, KENNEDY, JEFFORDS and HUTCHINSON would fully bring the United States Postal Service under the regulatory umbrella of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. It has always been my unshakeable belief that the Government must play by its own rules. This important legislation is an incremental step in the effort to ensure that the "law of the land" applies equally to all branches of the Government as well as the private sector—and everything in-between.

Since I became a member of this distinguished body, I've been advocating legislation geared to improve the safety and health of our nation's workplaces. My sincere devotion to this issue, however, goes back much farther than my work here in Washington. For 12 years, I was an accountant for Dunbar Well Service in Gillette, WY, an oil well servicing company with offices throughout Wyoming. Like most businesses in my home state, Dunbar Well Service is a small business. The payroll consisted of 130 employees. As a result, I wore several hats. One of my roles was safety instruction, which required me to travel the state teaching employees about the importance of work-

place safety and health. The company's rigorous safety program even had me collecting samples for drug tests—an extremely effective method of deterring workplace injuries and fatalities, by the way.

I saw things with OSHA that I thought needed to be changed. I served in the State legislature. I was told that States can't change that and I understand that. Then I got to come to Washington, and in Washington we can make a difference in the workplace. I went to work on a SAFE Act, one that will provide safety in all businesses. That has been through hearings. It has been through markups in the Labor Committee and is ready to be debated on this floor. I have had hands-on experience in the workplace with safety, and I know that workplace safety and health is everyone's business. And that's the only way it works. It is not a political issue, it is an issue that cannot be divided by a barrier that separates even the public and the private sector. It's everybody's concern, and that is the only way it works.

We must ensure the safety and health of all employees because they are the most important asset of any business. It's success or failure rests with their ability to provide efficient care and service to their customers, whoever they may be. Although all Federal agencies must comply with the 1970 Occupational Safety and Health statute, they are not required to pay penalties issued to them by OSHA. The bill I am introducing today is the first step in the effort to eliminate this barrier.

It is important to point out that this legislation is not intended to single out the Postal Service. My first look at how ineffective Federal agencies are at making workplace safety and health a priority began when I noted that Yellowstone National Park was cited by OSHA last February for 600 violations—92 of them serious. One of those serious violations was the Park's failure to report an employee's death to OSHA. In fact, Yellowstone has posted five employee deaths in the past three and one-half years. Although there are these and other serious problems noted in the Park's safety and health record, I later found that it pales in comparison to the United States Postal Service's record.

After looking at the past 5 year totals for all Federal workplace injuries, illnesses, lost work time and fatalities, I was shocked to see the Postal Service at the very top of the list. It was my initial feeling that the armed forces would be the most hazardous occupation in the Federal Government. That notion was proven wrong. Surprisingly, the Postal Service employs relatively the same number of workers as the Department of Defense. Yet it has double the number of total workplace injuries and illnesses and almost double the number of lost work-time cases as the Department of Defense.