

International on the occasion of its centennial anniversary; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. REID, Mr. FRIST, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. CHAFEE)):

S. Res. 63. A resolution calling for an investigation into the assassination of Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and urging steps to pressure the Government of Syria to withdraw from Lebanon; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 64. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should prepare a comprehensive strategy for advancing and entering into international negotiations on a binding agreement that would swiftly reduce global mercury use and pollution to levels sufficient to protect public health and the environment; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 65. A resolution calling for the Government of Cambodia to release Cheam Channy from prison, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. BIDEN):

S. Res. 66. A resolution urging the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair process for the parliamentary elections scheduled for February 27, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Con. Res. 14. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the continued participation of the Russian Federation in the Group of 8 nations should be conditioned on the Russian Government voluntarily accepting and adhering to the norms and standards of democracy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 8

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 8, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 37

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 37, a bill to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years.

S. 77

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 77, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve death benefits for the families of deceased members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 132

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, a bill to amend the Inter-

nal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for premiums on mortgage insurance.

S. 141

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to allow up to 24 months of vocational educational training to be counted as a work activity under the temporary assistance to needy families program.

S. 177

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 177, a bill to further the purposes of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 by directing the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to carry out an assessment and demonstration program to control salt cedar and Russian olive, and for other purposes.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 183, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide families of disabled children with the opportunity to purchase coverage under the medicaid program for such children, and for other purposes.

S. 193

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 193, a bill to increase the penalties for violations by television and radio broadcasters of the prohibitions against transmission of obscene, indecent, and profane language.

S. 239

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 239, a bill to reduce the costs of prescription drugs for medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

S. 265

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 265, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to add requirements regarding trauma care, and for other purposes.

S. 288

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 288, a bill to extend Federal funding for operation of State high risk health insurance pools.

S. 291

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 291, a bill to require the withholding of United States contributions to the United Nations until the President certifies that the United Nations is cooperating in the investigation of

the United Nations Oil-for-Food Program.

S. 306

At the request of Mr. KERRY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 306, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

S. 311

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 311, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States the option to provide medicaid coverage for low-income individuals infected with HIV.

S. 314

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, her name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to protect consumers, creditors, workers, pensioners, shareholders, and small businesses, by reforming the rules governing venue in bankruptcy cases to combat forum shopping by corporate debtors.

S. 319

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 319, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise the amount of minimum allotments under the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness program.

S. 340

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 340, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

S. 358

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 358, a bill to maintain and expand the steel import licensing and monitoring program.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 382, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

S. 385

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 385, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to restore integrity to and strengthen payment limitation rules for commodity payments and benefits.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to carry out activities that promote the adoption of technologies that reduce greenhouse gas intensity in developing countries, while promoting economic development, and for other purposes.

S. 397

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 397, a bill to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages, injunctive or other relief resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 397, supra.

S. 406

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 406, a bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 to improve access and choice for entrepreneurs with small businesses with respect to medical care for their employees.

S.J. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Department of Agriculture under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, relating to risk zones for introduction of bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

S. RES. 39

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 39, a resolution apologizing to the victims of lynching and the descendants of those victims for the failure of the Senate to enact anti-lynching legislation.

S. RES. 44

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 44, a resolution celebrating Black History Month.

S. RES. 56

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 56, a resolution des-

ignating the month of March as Deep-Vein Thrombosis Awareness Month, in memory of journalist David Bloom.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. BOND):

S. 414. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to protect the right of Americans to vote through the prevention of voter fraud, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Voter Protection Act of 2005, and I am pleased to be joined again by my good friend from Missouri, Senator BOND. I also acknowledge the deep interest and expertise of the occupant of the chair in this important subject of how we have increasingly honest elections in our country.

In the wake of the 2000 election, as chairman of the Rules and Administration Committee, and then its ranking member, Senators BOND, DODD, and I worked together to address the problems brought to light in the 2000 elections. In January of 2001, I introduced the first of what would become several election reform bills. Nearly 2 years later, all the hard work and long hours paid off with the President of the United States signing the Help America Vote Act of 2002, commonly referred to as HAVA.

This legislation passed with near unanimous support in both Chambers. HAVA set forth several minimum standards for States to meet and was coupled with a new Election Assistance Commission to provide advice and distribute \$3 billion to date. The goal was and is to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat.

The 2004 elections were the first conducted under HAVA. There are reports of many successes attributable to HAVA, including a new Cal-Tech/MIT study, which found a decrease in the residual vote rate, or ballots that did not record a vote for President. Further, there were new requirements for identification while registering or, at the polls, new voting technology, statewide databases, and a broad Federal requirement for the casting of provisional ballots.

HAVA was a tremendous success, but all of the cosponsors were careful to avoid a complete Federal takeover of elections. As was stated by prominent election expert Doug Lewis, after conducting elections for over 200 years, State and local officials didn't become stupid in just one election. Throughout the bill, we remained respectful of the States rights and left methods of implementation to the discretion of States.

Today, we bring before this body a new piece of legislation which builds upon the successes of HAVA and clarifies some of the misinterpretations that occurred in the last election. This

bill provides State and local officials more tools to ensure every eligible voter casts their vote, but make sure it is counted only once.

First, the most important part of this election process is an accurate and secure registration list. This legislation clarifies several provisions related to ensuring that those who register are legally entitled to do so, do so only once, and in only one State. Further, we address the problem brought about by voter registration drives which dumped impossible numbers of new registrations on the last day of registration. The bill ensures that only real-life, eligible Mary Poppins registers to vote.

Second, the process of actually casting a ballot is sacred to all Americans. The legislation will ensure accurate poll lists and photo identification at the polls, and will reaffirm HAVA's goal of permitting State law to govern counting provisional ballots.

Further, for absentee ballots, having them returned by election day and requiring authentication of their request is critical. Thus, if a real, eligible, registered Mary Poppins goes to the polls, she can show identification and vote—but just once.

Third, grant money will be available to pay for photo identification for those who don't have one or cannot afford one. The Election Assistance Commission will conduct a pilot program for the use of indelible ink at the polls, reminiscent of the Iraqi elections on January 30. We were all moved by the picture we saw from the Iraqi elections of voters proudly showing their ink-sustained fingers. Aside from being an act of national pride, it was also an act to ensure that all those who voted did so only once.

Lastly, the 2004 elections saw new tactics which must be addressed by new criminal penalties for buying and conspiring to buy voter registrations. Further, the destruction or damaging of property with intent to impede voting is something that must be prosecuted.

Again, I am proud to have been the Senate Republican sponsor of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and believe it has and will continue to improve the conduct of elections in this country. But much more needs to be done. The Voter Protection Act of 2005 builds upon that important piece of legislation to combat voter fraud and ensure the integrity of the entire election process.

I know Senator BOND, a cosponsor, is on the way to the floor. I commend him for his important contribution to HAVA. I repeat my earlier comments about the occupant of the chair and his expertise and interest in this issue. We look forward to working with both of them to advance a piece of legislation for America that would make it easier to vote and harder to cheat.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to join with my colleague Senator MCCONNELL in introducing the