

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. LUGAR:

S. 632. A bill to authorize the extension of unconditional and permanent nondiscriminatory treatment (permanent normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 633. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS:

S. 634. A bill to amend the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 to clarify allowable payment terms for sales of agricultural commodities and products to Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 635. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the benefits under the medicare program for beneficiaries with kidney disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 636. A bill to direct the Inspector General of the Department of Justice to submit semi-annual reports regarding settlements relating to false claims and fraud against the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. PRYOR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 637. A bill to establish a national health program administered by the Office of Personnel Management to offer health benefits plans to individuals who are not Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CORZINE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 638. A bill to extend the authorization for the ferry boat discretionary program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORZINE (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. REID, Mr. KERRY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, and Mr. DAYTON):

S. 639. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the age for receipt of military retired pay for nonregular service from 60 years of age to 55 years of age; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska):

S. 640. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of a unified combatant command for military intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 641. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D.; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TALENT, Mr. ENZI, Mr.

ENSIGN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. SMITH, Mr. VITTER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 642. A bill to support certain national youth organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 643. A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to reauthorize State mediation programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. DODD):

S. 644. A bill to establish new special immigrant categories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. DODD, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 645. A bill to reinstate the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S.J. Res. 10. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires (except during time of war and subject to suspension by Congress) that the total amount of money expended by the United States during any fiscal year not exceed the amount of certain revenue received by the United States during such fiscal year and not exceed 20 per centum of the gross national product of the United States during the previous calendar year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S.J. Res. 11. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to abolish the electoral college and to provide for the direct popular election of the President and Vice President of the United States; 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. SANTORUM (for himself, Mr. HUTCHISON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. Res. 83. A resolution commemorating the 65th Anniversary of the Black Press of America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 185

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for the reduction of certain Survivor Benefit Plan annuities by the amount of dependency and indemnity compensation and to modify the effective date for paid-up coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan.

S. 296

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

CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to reaffirm the authority of States to regulate certain hunting and fishing activities.

S. 378

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 378, a bill to make it a criminal act to willfully use a weapon with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury to any person while on board a passenger vessel, and for other purposes.

S. 394

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 394, a bill to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes.

S. 397

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors 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.

S. 468

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 468, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to enhance literacy in finance and economics, and for other purposes.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 484, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 495

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 495, a bill to impose sanctions against perpetrators of crimes against humanity in Darfur, Sudan, and for other purposes.

S. 513

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 513, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. MARTINEZ, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) were added as cosponsors of S. 539, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide the protections of habeas corpus for certain incapacitated individuals whose life is in jeopardy, and for other purposes.

S. 558

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 558, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain additional retired members of the Armed Forces 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 to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt.

S. 586

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 586, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the proper tax treatment of certain disaster mitigation payments.

S. 589

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 589, a bill to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays.

S. 593

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide that the provisions relating to countervailing duties apply to nonmarket economy countries.

S. RES. 31

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 31, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the week of August 7, 2005, be designated as "National Health Center Week" in order to raise awareness of health services provided by community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 82

At the request of Mr. FRIST, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 82, a resolution urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to the European Union's wide-ranging list of terrorist organizations.

AMENDMENT NO. 146

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, her name was added as a cosponsor of

amendment No. 146 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 18, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 through 2010.

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 146 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 18, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 149

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 149 proposed to S. Con. Res. 18, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 through 2010.

AMENDMENT NO. 155

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 155 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 18, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 through 2010.

AMENDMENT NO. 158

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 158 proposed to S. Con. Res. 18, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 through 2010.

AMENDMENT NO. 168

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 168 proposed to S. Con. Res. 18, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 through 2010.

AMENDMENT NO. 169

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 169 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 18, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for

fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 through 2010.

AMENDMENT NO. 172

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 172 proposed to S. Con. Res. 18, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 through 2010.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 632. A bill to authorize the extension of unconditional and permanent nondiscriminatory treatment (permanent normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a bill that I have introduced authorizing the extension of permanent normal trade relations treatment. Ukraine is still subject to the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Act of 1974, which sanctions nations for failure to comply with freedom of emigration requirements. Our bill would repeal permanently the application of Jackson-Vanik to Ukraine.

In the post Cold War era, Ukraine has demonstrated a commitment to meet these requirements, and in addition, has expressed a strong desire to abide by free market principles and good governance. Last November, I served as President Bush's personal representative to the runoff election between Prime Minister Yanukovich and Victor Yushchenko. During that visit, I promoted free and fair election procedures that would strengthen worldwide respect for the legitimacy of the winning candidate. Unfortunately, that was not possible. The Government of Ukraine allowed, or aided and abetted, wholesale fraud and abuse that changed the results of the election. It is clear that Prime Minister Yanukovich did not win the election.

In response, the people of Ukraine rallied in the streets and demanded justice. After tremendous international pressure and mediation, Ukraine repeated the runoff election on December 26. A newly named Central Election Commission and a new set of election laws led to a much improved process. International monitors concluded that the process was generally free and fair. This past weekend Victor Yushchenko was inaugurated as President of Ukraine.

Extraordinary events have occurred in Ukraine over the last three months.