

GI Bill; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 2092. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to authorize review by the Joint Committee on Tax of Federal income tax returns of United States Supreme Court nominees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 2093. A bill to amend the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 to provide funds for training in tribal leadership, management, and policy, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

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

S. 2094. A bill to reauthorize certain provisions relating to Indian tribal justice systems; considered and passed.

By Mr. BIDEN:

S. 2095. A bill to ensure payment of United States assessments for United Nations peace-keeping operations in 2005 and 2006; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 521

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 521, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish, promote, and support a comprehensive prevention, research, and medical management referral program for hepatitis C virus infection.

S. 707

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 707, a bill to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

S. 716

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 716, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance services provided by vet centers, to clarify and improve the provision of bereavement counseling by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 737

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 737, a bill to amend the USA PATRIOT ACT to place reasonable limitations on the use of surveillance and the issuance of search warrants, and for other purposes.

S. 908

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 908, a bill to allow Congress,

State legislatures, and regulatory agencies to determine appropriate laws, rules, and regulations to address the problems of weight gain, obesity, and health conditions associated with weight gain or obesity.

S. 1100

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1100, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide capital gains treatment for certain self-created musical works.

S. 1120

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1120, a bill to reduce hunger in the United States by half by 2010, and for other purposes.

S. 1313

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1313, a bill to protect homes, small businesses, and other private property rights, by limiting the power of eminent domain.

S. 1508

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1508, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the incentives for the construction and renovation of public schools.

S. 1687

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1687, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide waivers relating to grants for preventive health measures with respect to breast and cervical cancers.

S. 1733

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1733, a bill to establish pilot projects under the medicare program to provide incentives for home health agencies to utilize home monitoring and communications technologies.

S. 1791

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1791, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for qualified timber gains.

S. 1801

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.

1801, a bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to reauthorize the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1841

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1841, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide extended and additional protection to Medicare beneficiaries who enroll for the Medicare prescription drug benefit during 2006.

S. 1881

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1881, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Old Mint at San Francisco otherwise known as the "Granite Lady", and for other purposes.

S. 1952

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1952, a bill to provide grants for rural health information technology development activities.

S. 1991

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1991, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a financial assistance program to facilitate the provision of supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing, and for other purposes.

S. 2075

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2075, a bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to permit States to determine State residency for higher education purposes and to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

S. 2076

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2076, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide to assistant United States attorneys the same retirement benefits as are afforded to Federal law enforcement officers.

S. 2082

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2082, a bill to amend the USA PATRIOT ACT to extend the sunset of certain provisions of that Act and the lone wolf provision of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to March 31, 2006.

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 2082, *supra*.

S.J. RES. 22

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 22, a joint resolution proclaiming Casimir Pulaski to be an honorary citizen of the United States posthumously.

S. CON. RES. 64

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 64, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding oversight of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

S. RES. 180

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 180, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Epidermolysis Bullosa Awareness Week to raise public awareness and understanding of the disease and to foster understanding of the impact of the disease on patients and their families.

S. RES. 320

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 320, a resolution calling the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 2084. A bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue regulations concerning the safety and labeling of portable generators; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, over the last several years, hundreds of Americans have died from the poisonous carbon monoxide emitted

from portable gas generators. Congress needs to step in and act quickly to stop these needless deaths. That is why today I am introducing the Portable Generator Safety Act.

As most of us know, portable generators are frequently used to provide electricity during temporary power outages. These generators use fuel-burning engines that give off poisonous carbon monoxide gas in their exhaust.

Every hurricane season, news stories come from Florida and elsewhere about people injured or killed by poisoning caused by portable gas generators. From 1998 to 2003, the most recent year of official statistics, at least 228 carbon monoxide poisoning deaths were reported to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. At least one person was killed and seven were hospitalized near Miami, FL, this fall after being overcome by carbon monoxide fumes. And over the last two hurricane seasons in Florida, at least twelve people died from poisoning caused by poorly ventilated portable generators. These people died because portable generators are not manufactured to automatically cut off when high carbon monoxide rates are reached and because many manufacturers fail to place adequate warning labels on generators.

Here is what is especially troubling about these senseless deaths: The Consumer Product Safety Commission has known for years that people were dying from carbon monoxide poisoning at an increasingly alarming rate. In study after study, the Commission has recognized the high death rate from portable generators, and Commission staff has found that portable generator warning labels are often inconsistent, vague, and incomplete. Yet the Commission has continued to let the generator industry police itself—without any mandatory Federal safety standards.

Enough is enough. Industry self-regulation—which works in some settings—clearly is not working here. Congress must now step in and do its part to eliminate these tragic and avoidable deaths.

My bill—the Portable Generator Safety Act—takes some simple, commonsense steps. The bill requires the Consumer Product Safety Commission to pass tough Federal regulations within 180 days of the passage of the bill. The new regulations would have three components.

First, every portable generator must have a sensor that automatically shuts off the generator before lethal levels of carbon monoxide are reached. Other products, such as portable heaters, already contain these types of sensors, which save lives.

Second, every portable generator must have clearly written warning labels on the packaging and on the generator itself. These labels must include a pictogram that visually depicts the safety hazard from carbon monoxide. What I am talking about here is labels that are easy to read and can quickly be understood by people who are des-

perate for power in emergency circumstances.

Third, every instruction manual that accompanies a portable generator must clearly explain the safety hazards associated with operating the generator.

How many more innocent people must needlessly die before we require the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the portable generator industry to take some sensible, pro-consumer steps? It is my goal that after the next hurricane season, we will not be back here asking these same questions.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2084

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 “Portable Generator Safety Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Portable generators are frequently used to provide electricity during temporary power outages. These generators use fuel-burning engines that emit carbon monoxide gas in their exhaust.

(2) In the last several years, hundreds of people nationwide have been seriously injured or killed due to exposure to carbon monoxide poisoning from portable generators. From 1990 through 2003, 228 carbon monoxide poisoning deaths were reported to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

(3) Virtually all of the serious injuries and deaths due to carbon monoxide from portable generators were preventable. In many instances, consumers simply were unaware of the hazards posed by carbon monoxide.

(4) Since at least 1997, a priority of the Consumer Product Safety Commission has been to reduce injuries and deaths resulting from carbon monoxide poisoning. Although the Commission has attempted to work with industry to devise voluntary standards for portable generators, and despite Commission staff statements that voluntary standards were ineffective, the Commission has not promulgated mandatory rules governing safety standards and labeling requirements.

(5) The issuance of mandatory safety standards and labeling requirements to warn consumers of the dangers associated with portable generator carbon monoxide would reduce the risk of injury or death.

SEC. 3. SAFETY STANDARD.

Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall promulgate regulations, pursuant to section 7 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2056), requiring, at a minimum, that every portable generator sold to the public for purposes other than resale shall be equipped with an interlock safety device that detects the level of carbon monoxide in the areas surrounding such portable generator and automatically turns off power to the portable generator before the level of carbon monoxide is capable of causing serious bodily injury or death to people.

SEC. 4. LABELING AND INSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS.

Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall promulgate regulations, pursuant to section 7 of the Consumer