

changes are not discriminatory before they may legally take effect;

Sections 6-9: The Federal Examiner/Observer provisions, which set forth criteria for election monitoring by the Department of Justice; and

Section 203: The bilingual voting materials provisions, which mandate that certain voting materials must be translated for language minorities in certain jurisdictions; and

Whereas, by 2007, Congress will vote on whether to extend these "special provisions" of the Voting Rights Act; the effects of the long history of voting discrimination persist; the "special provisions" of the Voting Rights Act continue to be extremely important tools for protecting minority voting; during the reauthorization process, Congress will compile a record that sets forth the continuing effects of the nation's widespread voting discrimination; and

Whereas, voting is the cornerstone of American democracy and, during the reauthorization process, Congress and individuals and organizations concerned with maintaining the protections afforded by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 will have an opportunity to present the evidence necessary to support renewal of the "special provisions" of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; in the meantime, all eligible voters should register, confirm their registration status, and exercise the right to vote so that the long struggle to expand the franchise yields meaningful results: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the 104th General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, the House of Representatives concurring, That we hereby urge Congress to reauthorize the "special provisions" of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee will collaborate with all organizations dedicated to ensuring the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and be it further

Resolved, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the U.S. Senate, and each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation.

POM-417. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to memorializing the Congress of the United States to address problems in the Department of Veterans Affairs concerning the provision of health care and benefits, the adjudication of claims, accountability, and outreach and to enact legislation that creates an appropriation formula that ensures predictable and adequate funding for the health care programs of the Veterans Health Administration; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 9

Whereas, military veterans who have served their country honorably and who were promised and have earned health care and benefits from the federal government through the Department of Veterans Affairs are now in need of these benefit; and

Whereas, the funding of the health care programs of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs has failed to reflect the admission of newly eligible veterans in the wake of the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996 and has fallen short of the amount needed to counter soaring medical care inflation, resulting in a funding shortfall of at least \$10 billion; and

Whereas, the current discretionary method of funding the health care programs of the Veterans Health Administration is uncertain

and is subject annually to the whim and competing priorities of congress, to the detriment of the veterans being served; and

Whereas, the Vietnam Veterans of America organization supports the adoption of a new funding mechanism for the health care programs of the Veterans Health Administration that is indexed to medical inflation and the per capita use of the administration's health care system; and

Whereas, the substantial delay in adjudicating veterans' claims for service-connected disability compensation is the cause of much anguish and anger among veterans and is the result of a lack of funding of the Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, which has led to an insufficient number of adjudicators and the inadequate training and supervision of adjudicators; and

Whereas, while the vast majority of Department of Veterans Affairs employees are dedicated to serving veterans, it is necessary to ensure that employee accountability standards be strengthened at senior and junior levels; and

Whereas, while more than five million veterans use the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs for their health care needs, tens of thousands more are eligible for benefits of which they are unaware due, to inadequate outreach efforts by the department: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to address problems in the Department of Veterans Affairs related to the provision of health care and benefits, the adjudication of claims, accountability, and outreach and to enact legislation that creates an appropriation formula that ensures predictable and adequate funding of the health care programs of the Veterans Health Administration; and be it further

Resolved, That the secretary of the senate forward official copies of this Resolution to the secretary of veterans affairs, the president of the United States, the president of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives of the United States Congress, and all members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this Resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-418. A resolution adopted by the Cook County Board of Commissioners of the State of Illinois relative to extending or making permanent all sections of the Voting Right Act of 1965; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BOND, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 5576. A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-293).

By Mr. McCAIN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 3526. A bill to amend the Indian Land Consolidation Act to modify certain requirements under that Act (Rept. No. 109-294).

By Mr. SPECTER, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 2703, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Rept. No. 109-295).

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. SPECTER:

S. 3731. A bill to regulate the judicial use of presidential signing statements in the interpretation of Acts of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 3732. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain liquid crystal divide (LCD) flat panel displays; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 3733. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain plasma flat panel displays; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3734. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow a judge to whom a case is transferred to retain jurisdiction over certain multidistrict litigation cases for trial, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 3735. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on vulcanized rubber felt bottom boots for use in waders; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 3736. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on vulcanized rubber lug bottom boots for use in fishing waders; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. REED, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DODD, and Mr. CHAFFEE):

S. 3737. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Washington-Rochambeau Route National Historic Trail; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3738. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional standard deduction for real property taxes for nonitemizers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. MARTINEZ):

S. 3739. A bill to establish a Consortium on the Impact of Technology in Aging Health Services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 3740. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the system of public financing for Presidential elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3741. A bill to provide funding authority to facilitate the evacuation of persons from Lebanon, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. SMITH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 3742. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to encourage investment in the expansion of freight rail infrastructure capacity and to enhance modal tax equity; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. ALLEN):

S. 3743. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve newborn screening

activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. COLEMAN):

S. 3744. A bill to establish the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Program; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 78

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 78, a bill to make permanent marriage penalty relief.

S. 351

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 351, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for patient protection by limiting the number of mandatory overtime hours a nurse may be required to work in certain providers of services to which payments are made under the Medicare Program.

S. 709

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 709, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide supportive services in permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1035, a bill to authorize the presentation of commemorative medals on behalf of Congress to Native Americans who served as Code Talkers during foreign conflicts in which the United States was involved during the 20th century in recognition of the service of those Native Americans to the United States.

S. 1112

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1112, a bill to make permanent the enhanced educational savings provisions for qualified tuition programs enacted as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 1537

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 1537, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of Parkinson's Disease Research Education and Clinical Centers in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Multiple Sclerosis Centers of Excellence.

S. 1621

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1621, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the above-the-line deduction for teacher classroom supplies and to expand such deduction to include qualified professional development expenses.

S. 1915

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

S. 2284

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2284, a bill to extend the termination date for the exemption of returning workers from the numerical limitations for temporary workers.

S. 2305

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2305, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the amendments made by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requiring documentation evidencing citizenship or nationality as a condition for receipt of medical assistance under the Medicaid program.

S. 2393

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2393, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to advance medical research and treatments into pediatric cancers, ensure patients and families have access to the current treatments and information regarding pediatric cancers, establish a population-based national childhood cancer database, and promote public awareness of pediatric cancers.

S. 2435

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 2435, a bill to increase cooperation on energy issues between the United States Government and foreign governments and entities in order to secure the strategic and economic interests of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2590

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr.

REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2590, a bill to require full disclosure of all entities and organizations receiving Federal funds.

S. 2824

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2824, a bill to reduce the burdens of the implementation of section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

S. 3499

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3499, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect youth from exploitation by adults using the Internet, and for other purposes.

S. 3512

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3512, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an offset against income tax refunds to pay for State judicial debts that are past due.

S. 3535

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3535, a bill to modernize and update the National Housing Act and to enable the Federal Housing Administration to use risk based pricing to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes.

S. 3647

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3647, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive the monthly beneficiary premium under a prescription drug plan or an MA-PD plan during months in which an individual enrolled in such a plan has a gap in prescription drug coverage.

S. 3656

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3656, a bill to provide additional assistance to combat HIV/AIDS among young people, and for other purposes.

S. 3680

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3680, a bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to reauthorize and expand the New Markets Venture Capital Program, and for other purposes.

S. 3694

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3694, a bill to increase fuel economy standards for automobiles, and for other purposes.