

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments:

S. 274. A bill to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, and for other purposes.

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 Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. REED, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. BREAU, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. REID):

S. 1162. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to accelerate the increase in the refundability of the child tax credit, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 1163. A bill to condition receipt of certain State revolving funds on the restriction of development or construction of new colonia and colonia structures along the border between the United States and Mexico; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. CANTWELL, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1164. A bill to provide for the development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated United States research program that assists the people of the United States and the world to understand, assess, and predict human-induced and natural processes of abrupt climate change; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 1165. A bill to amend the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century to provide from the Highway Trust Fund additional funding for Indian reservation roads, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. SUNUNU):

S. 1166. A bill to establish a Department of Defense national security personnel system and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 1167. A bill to resolve the boundary conflicts in Barry and Stone Counties in the State of Missouri; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 171

At the request of Mr. DAYTON, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 171, a bill to amend the title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide payment to medicare ambulance suppliers of the full costs of providing such services, and for other purposes.

S. 253

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Massachu-

setts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 253, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 271, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an additional advance refunding of bonds originally issued to finance governmental facilities used for essential governmental functions.

S. 348

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 348, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make higher education more affordable, and for other purposes.

S. 363

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 363, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that the reductions in social security benefits which are required in the case of spouses and surviving spouses who are also receiving certain Government pensions shall be equal to the amount by which two-thirds of the total amount of the combined monthly benefit (before reduction) and monthly pension exceeds \$1,200, adjusted for inflation.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) were added as cosponsors of S. 392, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both military retired pay by reason of their years of military service and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability.

S. 567

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 567, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for sewer overflow control grants.

S. 665

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 665, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for farmers and fisherman, and for other purposes.

S. 786

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 786, a bill to amend the tem-

porary assistance to needy families program under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide grants for transitional jobs programs, and for other purposes.

S. 787

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 787, a bill to provide for the fair treatment of the Federal judiciary relating to compensation and benefits, and to instill greater public confidence in the Federal courts.

S. 816

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 816, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect and preserve access of medicare beneficiaries to health care provided by hospitals in rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 847

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 847, 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. 856

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 856, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the incentives for the construction and renovation of public schools.

S. 884

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 884, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide certain substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 922

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 922, a bill to change the requirements for naturalization through service in the Armed Forces of the United States, to extend naturalization benefits to members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, to extend posthumous benefits to surviving spouses, children, and parents, and for other purposes.

S. 939

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 939, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education

Act to provide full Federal funding of such part, to provide an exception to the local maintenance of effort requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 959

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 959, a bill to limit the age restrictions imposed by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the issuance or renewal of certain airman certificates, and for other purposes.

S. 977

At the request of Mr. FITZGERALD, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 977, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage from treatment of a minor child's congenital or developmental deformity or disorder due to trauma, infection, tumor, or disease.

S. 982

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) were added as cosponsors of S. 982, a bill to halt Syrian support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, stop its development of weapons of mass destruction, cease its illegal importation of Iraqi oil, and hold Syria accountable for its role in the Middle East, and for other purposes.

S. 1015

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1015, a bill to authorize grants through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for mosquito control programs to prevent mosquito-borne diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 1019

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1019, a bill to amend titles 10 and 18, United States Code, to protect unborn victims of violence.

S. 1036

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1036, a bill to provide for a multi-agency cooperative effort to encourage further research regarding the causes of chronic wasting disease and methods to control the further spread of the disease in deer and elk herds, to monitor the incidence of the disease, to support State efforts to control the disease, and for other purposes.

S. 1046

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1046, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to preserve localism, to foster and promote the diversity of television programming, to foster and promote competition, and to prevent excessive concentration of ownership of the nation's television broadcast stations.

S. 1076

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1076, a bill to authorize construction of an education center at or near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

S. 1110

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1110, a bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to provide trade adjustment assistance for communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1126

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1126, a bill to establish the Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration, to create the Native American Small Business Development Program, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 7

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 7, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to the reference to God in the Pledge of Allegiance and on United States currency.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. REED, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. REID):

S. 1162. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to accelerate the increase in the refundability of the child tax credit, and for other purposes; read the first time.

Mrs. LINCOLN. M. President, I am proud to introduce today the Working Taxpayer Fairness Restoration Act. I offer this bill on behalf of the nearly 12 million children who were left behind when President Bush signed the 2003 tax bill.

The bill that I am introducing, with many of my good friends, including Senators SNOWE, WARNER and JEFFORDS, will restore a provision left on the cutting-room floor when House and Senate leaders finalized the conference

report on the tax cut. Our bill will restore the advanced refundability of the child tax credit.

My friend from Maine and I have worked since 2001 to ensure that all working families benefit from the child tax credit. We worked to ensure in the 2001 tax cut that the child tax credit was refundable. During Finance Committee deliberations on this year's tax bill, I successfully offered an amendment that would have advanced the refundability of the child tax credit. Regrettably, that provision was dropped in conference.

Unless we pass the bill that I am introducing today, families with incomes between \$10,500 and \$26,625 will not get the \$400 checks that will be mailed in July as part of the 2003 tax bill. Since nearly half the taxpayers in Arkansas have adjusted gross incomes less than \$20,000, Arkansas families are among the hardest hit by this omission in the new tax law.

Consider this: The base pay for a private in the military is just under \$16,000 per year. The average Arkansas firefighter makes between \$22,000 and \$25,000 a year. Many of those enlisted men, who could be given a few days' notice before being shipped off to war, and those firefighters, who could get no more than a few minutes' notice before rushing into a terrorist attack, have families. They work hard to support their families and to protect us. Yet they got left out when negotiators shook hands over the final tax bill.

I wasn't in the room during those negotiations in the dark of night, and I understand that very few of my colleagues were. But we are here today, united in our effort to fight for these working families.

Advancing the refundable portion of the child credit to cover these families will cost only \$3.5 billion—just 1 percent of the entire cost of the tax cut. This measure had strong bipartisan support in the Senate, and I was proud to play a leading role to expand the children tax credit in the Senate bill. I'm glad to have bipartisan support in my effort today to restore this provision.

We will pay for this tax relief for working families by shutting down some Enron-related tax shelters. This pay-for was included in the Senate version of the 2003 tax bill, so it has already received the blessing of a majority of the Senate.

Especially as our nation contends with a sluggish economy, we should ensure that everyone benefits from the tax cut. After all, buying blue jeans for schoolchildren, washing powder for the laundry or tires for the car costs just as much for a family making \$20,000 a year as it does for a family making \$100,000. If we want to get our economy back on track, we need to make sure that we're putting money into the pockets of consumers who will spend it.

This isn't about partisanship—as is evidenced by the cosponsors of this bill—it is about doing what's right for