

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. CORZINE (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 1422. A bill to provide assistance to train teachers of children with autism spectrum disorders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ALLEN:

S. 1423. A bill to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. DOMENICI:

S. 1424. An original bill making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 1425. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize the New York City Watershed Protection Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 1426. An original bill making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. BENNETT:

S. 1427. An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 1428. A bill to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against food manufacturers, marketers, distributors, advertisers, sellers, and trade associations for damages or injunctive relief for claims of injury resulting from a person's weight gain, obesity, or any health condition related to weight gain or obesity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CHAFEE (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1429. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with options for providing family planning services and supplies to individuals eligible for medical assistance under the medicaid program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1430. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Baranov Museum in Kodiak, Alaska, for potential inclusion in the National Park System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. CORZINE):

S. 1431. A bill to reauthorize the assault weapons ban, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 310

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) and the Senator from Ne-

braska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 310, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend that Act.

S. 595

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the required use of certain principal repayments on mortgage subsidy bond financings to redeem bonds, to modify the purchase price limitation under mortgage subsidy bond rules based on median family income, and for other purposes.

S. 726

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 726, a bill to treat the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November as a legal public holiday for purposes of Federal employment, and for other purposes.

S. 852

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 852, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide limited TRICARE program eligibility for members of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces, to provide financial support for continuation of health insurance for mobilized members of reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 894

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 894, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 230th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support construction of the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

S. 976

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 976, a bill to provide for the issuance of a coin to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement.

S. 982

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachu-

setts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1091

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1091, a bill to provide funding for student loan repayment for public attorneys.

S. 1168

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 1168, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a program to increase the use of recyclable material in the construction of Federal-aid highways.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1172, a bill to establish grants to provide health services for improved nutrition, increased physical activity, obesity prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1180

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1180, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the work opportunity credit and the welfare-to-work credit.

S. 1222

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1222, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in determining eligibility for payment under the prospective payment system for inpatient rehabilitation facilities, to apply criteria consistent with rehabilitation impairment categories established by the Secretary for purposes of such prospective payment system.

S. 1245

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1245, a bill to provide for homeland security grant coordination and simplification, and for other purposes.

S. 1285

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1285, a bill to reform the postal laws of the United States.

S. 1297

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1297, a bill to amend title 28,

United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts inferior to the Supreme Court over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

S. 1331

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1331, a bill to clarify the treatment of tax attributes under section 108 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for taxpayers which file consolidated returns.

S. 1335

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1335, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a deduction for qualified long-term care insurance premiums, use of such insurance under cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, and a credit for individuals with long-term care needs.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1379, 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.

S. 1380

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1380, a bill to distribute universal service support equitably throughout rural America, and for other purposes.

S. 1397

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1397, a bill to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities.

S. 1414

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1414, a bill to restore second amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

S. 1415

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1415, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 141 Weston Street in Hartford, Connecticut, as the "Barbara B. Kennelly Post Office Building".

S. CON. RES. 40

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from Ala-

bama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 40, a concurrent resolution designating August 7, 2003, as "National Purple Heart Recognition Day".

S. CON. RES. 53

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 53, a concurrent resolution honoring and congratulating chambers of commerce for their efforts that contribute to the improvement of communities and the strengthening of local and regional economies.

S. RES. 167

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 167, a resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Harley-Davidson Motor Company, which has been a significant part of the social, economic, and cultural heritage of the United States and many other nations and a leading force for product and manufacturing innovation throughout the 20th century.

S. RES. 169

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 169, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States Postal Service should issue a postage stamp commemorating Anne Frank.

S. RES. 170

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 170, a resolution designating the years 2004 and 2005 as "Years of Foreign Language Study".

AMENDMENT NO. 1273

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1273 proposed to H.R. 2658, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORZINE (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 1422. A bill to provide assistance to train teachers of children with autism spectrum disorders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise to introduce along with Senator LAUTENBERG the Teacher Education for Autistic Children, TEACH, Act of 2003, legislation that will highlight the needs of autistic children by bringing more qualified teachers into the classroom, helping families receive the support and services they need for their children, and helping ensure vocational

programs to assist people with autism transition from school to work are functioning as intended.

Autism is a developmental disability characterized by atypical, often repetitive behaviors and deficits in social and communication skills. Though it is difficult to determine an exact number, some researchers believe that an astounding 1 out of 250 of our Nation's children are in some way affected by this disorder.

Perhaps even more alarming is the fact that the number of children diagnosed with some form of autism has increased significantly throughout the country over the past decade. Take my State for example—according to the New Jersey Department of Education in 1991, there were 241 children in our schools who had been diagnosed with autism. By 2001, that figure had risen to 3,984, a staggering increase of 1,548 percent.

While the cause of autism and its cure are unknown, we are aware that the best treatment for these children is early intervention from qualified teachers. The TEACH Act of 2003 would go a long way in improving services for these children by providing teachers with the necessary training and helping school districts in hiring qualified autism teachers.

Specifically, the TEACH Act authorizes \$15 million a year for five years to provide education or professional development training for current teachers or students who want to be special education teachers, teachers' aides, or other professionals who work with autistic children.

The TEACH Act also establishes a loan forgiveness program for qualified teachers of autistic children to help them pay off college loans or loans associated with taking continuing education courses related to autism. This incentive of up to \$20,000 to help pay off college loans will go a long way in attracting more qualified individuals into special education.

The bill also includes provisions that establish State Autism Ombudsman Offices that would act as clearinghouses for families who are seeking information on services, education, and other resources to help their children achieve the full and happy lives they deserve. It also creates a national Task Force to evaluate and make recommendations regarding best practices for the education of autistic children.

Finally, this legislation requires a joint Department of Labor/Department of Education study to evaluate existing vocational programs available for people with autism in order to ensure that such individuals have access to quality jobs and their own independence.

The TEACH Act will go a long way to help autistic families by giving their children the opportunity to achieve the highest quality of life. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, which has the power to improve thousands of lives.