

EC-5701. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definition of Federal Election Activity" (11 CFR Part 100) received on February 8, 2005; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-5702. A communication from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to FHA Credit Watch Termination Initiative" (RIN2502-AH60)(FR-4625-F-03) received on February 8, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5703. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Governance, Conflict of Interest, Compensation Disclosure, and Audit Committee Standards" (RIN3052-AC19) received on February 8, 2006; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5704. A communication from the Secretary, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Eligibility for Health Care Benefits for Certain Filipino Veterans in the United States" (RIN2900-AM03) received on February 8, 2006; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5705. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 45 Credit Offset" (Revenue Ruling 2006-9) received on February 8, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5706. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5707. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Comprehensive Inventory of U.S. OCS Oil and Natural Gas Resources"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5708. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on Department of Defense assistance provided for essential security and safety for civilian sporting events during calendar year 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5709. A communication from the Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Quarterly Excise Tax Filing for Small Alcohol Excise Taxpayers" (RIN1513-AB17)(T.D. TTB-41) received on February 8, 2006; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5710. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to Executive Order 13346 of July 8, 2004, the annual certification of the effectiveness of the Australia Group; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5711. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 06-21-06-34); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5712. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education,

transmitting, pursuant to law, (6) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5713. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Justification of Budget Estimates for Fiscal Year 2007"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 2277. A bill to promote accountability and prevent fraud in Federal contracting; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. LEAHY):

S.J. Res. 29. A joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Alan G. Spoon as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. LEAHY):

S.J. Res. 30. A joint resolution providing for the appointment of Phillip Frost as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 345

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 345, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deliver a meaningful benefit and lower prescription drug prices under the Medicare program.

S. 914

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 914, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a competitive grant program to build capacity in veterinary medical education and expand the workforce of veterinarians engaged in public health practice and biomedical research.

S. 1082

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1082, a bill to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

S. 1272

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1272, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, and title II of the Social Security Act to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II.

S. 1799

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1799, 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. 1800

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1800, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit.

S. 1881

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1934

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1934, a bill to reauthorize the grant program of the Department of Justice for reentry of offenders into the community, to establish a task force on Federal programs and activities relating to the reentry of offenders into the community, and for other purposes.

S. 1956

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1956, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to create a new three-tiered approval system for drugs, biological products, and devices that is responsive to the needs of seriously ill patients, and for other purposes.

S. 2253

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2253, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to offer the 181 Area of the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas leasing.

S. 2255

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2255, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit removal of covered part D drugs from a prescription drug plan formulary during the plan year once an individual has enrolled in the plan.

S. 2258

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2258, a bill to amend the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 to