EC-1864. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Airworthiness Directives: Rolls-Royce Series Turboshaft Engines’’ ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. 2006-NE-40)) received on May 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1865. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 737-600, –700, –700C, and –800 Series Airplanes’’ ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. 2006-NE-41)) received on May 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1866. A communication from a Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Airworthiness Directives: Rolls-Royce Series Turboshaft Engines’’ ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. 2006-NE-40)) received on May 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1867. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Airworthiness Directives: Raytheon Aircraft Company Models 58 and GS 8 Airplanes’’ ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. 2006-NE-41)) received on May 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.


EC-1869. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Airworthiness Directives: US SOCATA Model TB 700 Airplanes’’ ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. 2006-CE–59)) received on May 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.


EC-1871. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Annual Update of Filing Fees’’ (Docket No. RM07–12–000) received on May 7, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1873. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration’s position on the budget proposals for the Montana Local Flood Reduction Project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1874. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to U.S. military personnel and civilian contractors involved in the anti-narcotics campaign in Colombia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1875. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the certification of Kazakhstan’s commitment to the courses of action described in the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. CAIN):

S. 1325. A bill to amend the Act of July 3, 1890, to provide for the granting to a State of a parcel of land for use as an agricultural college, and to provide for the use of earnings and proceeds thereof; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mrs. LYNCH, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1327. A bill to create and extend certain temporary district court judgeships; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 1328. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent resident status for citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents to legalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1329. A bill to extend the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, to provide improved visitor access at the park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S. 1330. A bill to extend the National Park Service’s capacity to identify and prioritize needs for National Park Service lands; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S. 1331. A bill to adjust the boundaries of the Old Spanish Trail National Monument; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 1332. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 1333. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army to transfer to the State of Alaska a parcel of land for use as an agricultural college; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

S. 1334. A bill to amend section 316 of title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the authority to furnish government headquarters and markers for graves of veterans at private cemeteries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

S. 1335. A bill to amend title 4. United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

S. 1336. A bill to provide for an assessment of the achievement by the Government of Iraq of benchmarks for political settlement and national reconciliation in Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. 1337. A bill to extend the Social Security Act to provide for equal coverage of mental health services under the State Children’s Health Insurance Program; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1338. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a two-year moratorium on certain Medicare physician payment reductions for imaging services; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1339. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, the Higher Education Act of 1965, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve recruitment, preparation, distribution, and retention of public elementary and secondary school teachers and principals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. Res. 191. A resolution establishing a national goal for the universal deployment of next-generation broadband networks to access the Internet and for other uses by 2015, and calling upon Congress and the President to develop a strategy, apply legislation, and adopt policies to accomplish this objective; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 206. At the request of Mr. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 206, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the
Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 231

At the request of Mrs. Feinstei{n, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. Byrd) and the Senator from New York (Mr. Schumer) were added as cosponsors of S. 231, a bill to authorize the establishment of the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 268

At the request of Ms. Cantwell, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Chafee) was added as a cosponsor of S. 268, a bill to designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 369

At the request of Mr. Sanders, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Biden) were added as cosponsors of S. 369, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, and for other purposes.

S. 326

At the request of Mrs. Lincoln, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Brown) was added as a cosponsor of S. 326, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special period of limitation when uniformed services retirement pay is reduced as result of award of disability compensation.

S. 394

At the request of Ms. Landrieu, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) was added as a cosponsor of S. 394, a bill to provide pay protection for members of the Reserve and the National Guard, and for other purposes.

S. 430

At the request of Mr. Leahy, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Obama) was added as a cosponsor of S. 430, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the Chief National Guard Bureau, and the enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 463

At the request of Mr. Obama, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Brown) was added as a cosponsor of S. 463, a bill to prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections.

S. 456

At the request of Mr. Nelson of Florida, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. Lincoln) was added as a cosponsor of S. 456, a bill to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance special penalties for violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, and for other purposes.
of S. 994, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the deductible and change the method of determining the mileage reimbursement rate under the beneficiary travel program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1012

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1012, 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. 1042

At the request of Mr. Enzi, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1042, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate and less costly.

S. 1065

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1065, a bill to improve the diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury in members and former members of the Armed Forces, to review and expand telehealth and telemental health programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1075

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1075, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to expand access to contraceptive services for women and men under the Medicaid program, help low income women and couples prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce abortion, and for other purposes.

S. 1083

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1083, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase competitiveness in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1139

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1139, a bill to establish the National Landscape Conservation System.

S. 1149

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1149, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to authorize the interstate distribution of State-inspected meat and poultry if the Secretary of Agriculture determines that the State inspection requirements are at least equal to Federal inspection requirements and to require the Secretary to reimburse State agencies for part of the costs of the inspections.

S. 1212

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit direct payment under the Medicare program for clinical social worker services provided to residents of skilled nursing facilities.

S. 1223

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1223, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to support efforts by local or regional television or radio broadcasters to provide essential public information programming in the event of a major disaster, and for other purposes.

S. 1239

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1239, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit through 2013, and for other purposes.

S. 1249

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to require the President to close the Department of Defense detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 1256

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1256, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize loan programs under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1261

At the request of Mrs. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1261, a bill to amend title 10 and 38, United States Code, to repeal the 10-year limit on use of Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1283

At the request of Mr. PHYOR, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1283, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the management of medical care, personnel actions, and quality of life issues for members of the Armed Forces who are receiving medical care in an outpatient status, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 29

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VONNOYICHI) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 29, a concurrent resolution encouraging the recognition of the Negro Baseball Leagues and their players on May 20th of each year.

S. RES. 82

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 82, a resolution designating August 16, 2007 as “National Airborne Day”.

S. RES. 134

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 134, a resolution designating September 2007 as “Adopt a School Library Month”.

S. RES. 171

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 171, a resolution memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the day of the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

S. RES. 185

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 185, a resolution supporting the ideals and values of the Olympic Movement.

AMENDMENT NO. 985

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 985 proposed to S. 1082, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1009

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1009 proposed to S. 1082, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1024

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1024 proposed to S. 1082, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes.
AMENDMENT NO. 1099

At the request of Mr. Sessions, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. Landrieu) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Vitter) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1099 intended to be proposed to S. 1326, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 1326. A bill to amend the Act of July 3, 1890, to provide for the granting to a State of a parcel of land for use as an agricultural college and to prescribe the use of earnings and proceeds therefrom to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. President, today, with my colleague from Idaho, Senator Craig, I rise to introduce a bill to amend the Morrill Act assets under the same risk of loss and that permit a trustee to deduct reasonable costs of administration of the assets normally incurred by the trustee. This bill would preclude deducting compensation known as dependency and indemnity compensation-Survivor Benefit Plan Offset.

The purpose of this bill is to address many of the long-standing benefit and other policy issues that are a priority to the national veteran service organizations and millions of their members all across our country. The legislation tracks many of the recommendations made in the Independent Budget, IB, for fiscal year 2008. The IB, as it is known, is the collaborative effort of a united veteran and health advocacy community with annual policy and budget recommendations on programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor. It is a guide for how this country should treat its veterans. It is written jointly by AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars and supported by over 50 other prominent organizations. I am very happy to have consulted extensively with the Independent Budget author to craft this legislation.

For too many years veterans’ needs have been sent to the back of the line in Congress behind tax cuts for the rich and corporate welfare for multinational corporations. This legislation is one step forward in correcting the shortcomings of the way our current system treats veterans. Instead of turning a blind eye to our veterans’ needs as has happened often in recent years, this bill begins to say “thank you” with real action.

The Comprehensive Veterans Benefits Improvements Act makes more than 25 separate changes to veterans’ programs ranging from disability payments, to insurance premiums, to grants for disabled veterans to adapt their cars to make them easier to use. We also try to make progress on long standing injustices in the VA and DoD benefit and retirement systems that veterans and their families have fought to correct for years. Among them are:

- Category 8 Veterans: In January of 2007, VA announced that it would no longer allow Category 8 veterans to enroll into the VA health care system. The Administration justified this move on the grounds that these are “higher income” veterans. The truth, however, is that these veterans can contribute little as $27,000 a year. VA estimates that more than 1.5 million category 8 veterans will have been denied enrollment in the VA health care system by fiscal year 2008. This legislation repeals that law.

- Concurrent Receipt: As the Military Officers Association of America explains, the Concurrent Receipt or Disabled Veterans’ Tax issue exists because of a “19th century law that required a dollar-for-dollar offset of military retired pay for disability compensation received from the VA... Retired pay is earned for a career of uniformed service and VA disability compensation is recompense for pain, suffering and lost future earning power due to service-connected disabilities.” For that reason veterans should receive both payments and not have one offset the other. This legislation would allow veterans to receive compensation/pension benefits and retired or retirement pay.

- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation-Survivor Benefit Plan Offset: Under current law, the survivors of veterans who die as a result of service-connected causes are entitled to compensation known as dependency and indemnity compensation, DIC. In addition, military retirees can have money deducted from their pay to purchase a survivors annuity. This is called the Survivor Benefit Plan, SBP. However, if the military retirees dies from service-connected causes his or her survivors will receive a SBP payment offset, dollar for dollar by the amount of the DIC payment they receive. Like the offset between military retiree pay and VA disability payments, this SBP/DIC offset unfairly denies beneficiaries the full amount of 2 programs that are meant to compensate for different needs as has happened often in recent years. This legislation repeals the offset between dependency and indemnity compensation and the Survivor Benefit Plan.