

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. CLELAND:

S. 144. A bill to require country of origin labeling of peanuts and peanut products and to establish penalties for violations of the labeling requirements; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 145. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase to parity with other surviving spouses the basic annuity that is provided under the uniformed services Survivor Benefit Plan for surviving spouses who are at least 62 years of age, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 146. A bill to amend part S of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to permit the use of certain amounts for assistance to jail-based substance treatment programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. KYL, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 147. A bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal district judges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 148. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the adoption credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. ROBERTS, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 149. A bill to provide authority to control the exports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 150. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an incentive to ensure that all Americans gain timely and equitable access to the Internet over current and future generations of broadband capability; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 151. A bill for the Relief of Ashley Ross Fuller; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 152. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the 60-month limit and increase the income limitation on the student loan interest deduction; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 153. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for State accreditation of diabetes self-management training programs under the medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 154. A bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to ensure uniform treatment by States of Federal overseas absentee ballots, to amend titles 10 and 18, United States Code, and the Revised Statutes to remove the uncertainty regarding the authority of the Department of Defense to permit buildings located on military installations and reserve component facilities to be used as polling places in Federal,

State, and elections for public office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 155. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to eliminate an inequity in the applicability of early retirement eligibility requirements to military reserve technicians; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 156. A bill to improve academic and social outcomes for students and reduce both juvenile crime and the risk that youth will become victims of crime by providing productive activities during after school hours; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 157. A bill to establish a program to help States expand the existing education system to include at least 1 year of early education preceding the year a child enters kindergarten; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 158. A bill to improve schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 159. A bill to elevate the Environmental Protection Agency to a cabinet level department, to redesignate the Environmental Protection Agency as the Department of Environmental Protection Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 160. A bill to provide assistance to States to expand and establish drug abuse treatment programs to enable such programs to provide services to individuals who voluntarily seek treatment for drug abuse; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CLELAND (for himself and Mr. MILLER):

S. Res. 14. A resolution commending the Georgia Southern University Eagles football team for winning the 2000 NCAA Division I-AA football championship; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CLELAND:

S. 144. A bill to require country of origin labeling of peanuts and peanut products and to establish penalties for violations of the labeling requirements; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, today I am re-introducing the Peanut Labeling Act. This bill will require country of origin labeling for all peanut and peanut products sold in the United States; specifically, it will require consumers to be notified whether the peanuts are grown in the United States or in another country. The main purpose of this bill is to provide American consumers with information about where the peanuts they purchase are grown.

This bill will allow consumers to make informed food choices and support American farmers in the best way that they can—with their food dollar.

By providing country of origin labels, consumers can determine if peanuts are from a country that has had pesticide or other problems which may be harmful to their health. This is true particularly during a period when food imports are increasing, and will continue to increase in the wake of new trade agreements such as the WTO and GATT.

The growth of biotechnology in the food arena necessitates more information in the marketplace. Research is being conducted today on new peanut varieties. These research efforts include seeds that might deter peanut allergies, tolerate more drought, and be more resistant to disease. As various countries use differing technologies, consumers need to be made aware of the source of the product they are purchasing. GAO recently pointed out that FDA only inspected 1.7 percent of 2.7 million shipments of fruit, vegetables, seafood and processed foods under its jurisdiction. Inspections for peanuts can be assumed to be in this range or less. This lack of inspection does not provide consumers of these products with a great deal of assurance.

Polls have shown that consumers in America want to know the origin of the products they buy. And, contrary to the arguments given by opponents of labeling measures that such requirements would drive prices up, consumers have indicated that they would be willing to pay extra for easy access to such information. I believe that this is a pro-consumer bill that will have wide support.

I am also very pleased that peanut growers in America strongly support my proposal. In fact, the Peanut Labeling Act has been endorsed by the Georgia Peanut Commission, the National Peanut Growers Group, the Southern Peanut Farmers Federation, the Alabama Peanut Producers Association, and the Florida Peanut Producers Association.

In conclusion, as my colleagues know, we live in a global economy which creates an international marketplace for our food products. I strongly believe that by providing country of origin labeling for agricultural products, such as peanuts, we not only provide consumers with information they need to make informed choices about the quality of food being served to their family but we also allow American farmers to showcase the time and effort they put into producing the safest and finest food products in the world. I believe this bill represents these principles and I ask my colleagues for their support.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: