

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 1153. A bill to establish an improved regulatory process for injurious wildlife to prevent the introduction and establishment in the United States of nonnative wildlife and wild animal pathogens and parasites that are likely to cause harm; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 1154. A bill to provide that certain requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act do not apply if the American Health Benefit Exchanges are not operating on October 1, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 1155. A bill to provide for advance appropriations for certain information technology accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to include mental health professionals in training programs of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. KIRK):

S. Res. 168. A resolution designating June 2013 as "National Aphasia Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to increase awareness of aphasia; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. HELLER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. Res. 169. A resolution designating the month of June 2013 as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 203

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 203, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

S. 217

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 217, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary of Education to collect information from coeducational elementary schools and secondary schools on such schools' athletic programs, and for other purposes.

S. 367

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 367, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 394

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 394, a bill to prohibit and deter the theft of metal, and for other purposes.

S. 420

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 420, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the logical flow of return information between partnerships, corporations, trusts, estates, and individuals to better enable each party to submit timely, accurate returns and reduce the need for extended and amended returns, to provide for modified due dates by regulation, and to conform the automatic corporate extension period to longstanding regulatory rule.

S. 427

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 427, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to provide flexibility to school food authorities in meeting certain nutritional requirements for the school lunch and breakfast programs, and for other purposes.

S. 534

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 534, a bill to reform the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers, and for other purposes.

S. 603

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 603, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 689

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 689, a bill to reauthorize and improve programs related to mental health and substance use disorders.

S. 717

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 717, a bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a pilot program to award grants to nonprofit organizations for the purpose of retrofitting nonprofit buildings with energy-efficiency improvements.

S. 718

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 718, a bill to create jobs in the United States by increasing United States exports to Africa by at least 200 percent in real dollar value within 10 years, and for other purposes.

S. 734

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 734, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

S. 842

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 842, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 941

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 941, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent discriminatory misconduct against taxpayers by Federal officers and employees, and for other purposes.

S. 955

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 955, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide liability protections for volunteer practitioners at health centers under section 330 of such Act.

S. 965

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 965, a bill to eliminate oil exports from Iran by expanding domestic production.

S. 993

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 993, a bill to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor to James Megellas, formerly of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and currently of Colleyville, Texas, for acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II.

S. 1000

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1000, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a crosscut budget for restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and for other purposes.

S. 1038

At the request of Mr. REID, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1038, a bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1069

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1069, a bill to prohibit discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

S. 1079

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1079, a bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement to promote the artificial reefs, and for other purposes.

S. 1116

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1116, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the exclusion from gross income of parking and transportation fringe benefits and to provide for a common cost-of-living adjustment, and for other purposes.

S. 1123

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1123, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

S. 1130

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1130, a bill to require the Attorney General to disclose each decision, order, or opinion of a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court that includes significant legal interpretation of section 501 or 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 unless such disclosure is not in the national security interest of the United States.

S. RES. 154

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 154, a resolution supporting political reform in Iran and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1182

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1182 intended to be proposed

to S. 744, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1195

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1195 proposed to S. 744, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1198

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1198 intended to be proposed to S. 744, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1208

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1208 intended to be proposed to S. 744, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1144. A bill to prohibit unauthorized third-party charges on wireline telephone bills, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Fair Telephone Billing Act of 2013. This legislation would protect millions of American consumers and businesses from unauthorized charges on their wireline telephone bills.

In 2011, the Senate Commerce Committee, which I chair, completed a year-long investigation into unauthorized third-party charges on telephone bills, a practice commonly referred to as “cramming.” The investigation confirmed that third-party billing through wireline telephone bills had likely cost American consumers and businesses billions of dollars in unauthorized charges.

This legislation will put an end to cramming on wireline bills once and for all.

Unauthorized third-party charges on telephone bills have plagued consumers for years. Cramming first emerged in the 1990s. Following the breakup of AT&T and the detariffing of “billing and collection services” by the Federal Communications Commission, telephone companies opened their billing and collection systems to third-party companies offering a variety of services, some of which were completely unrelated to telephone services.

For the first time, telephone numbers worked like credit card numbers. Consumers could purchase services with their telephone numbers and the charges for these services would later appear on their telephone bills.

There has been much debate over the extent to which telephone companies were required to allow third parties to place charges on customers’ phone bills, but the last of any Federal obligations ended in 2007. Since that time, with the exception of a few state requirements, telephone companies have been free to allow, or not allow, whatever companies they choose to place third-party charges on their customers’ telephone bills. The telephone companies chose to allow all sorts of companies to place charges for all sorts of services.

Throughout the 1990s, state and federal law enforcement saw a dramatic increase in complaints about unauthorized charges on telephone bills. In response, the Federal Communications Commission and the telephone industry created voluntary guidelines to combat cramming.

Throughout this same period, Congress also convened hearings on the issue, and each time, the telephone industry used these voluntary guidelines to argue that congressional action on cramming was not needed. Several bills were introduced, but none were adopted. Now we find ourselves, over a decade later, still discussing cramming. We cannot make the same mistake again.

In 2010, I opened the Committee’s investigation into cramming to better understand the scope of the cramming problem. The investigation showed that over the past decade, cramming caused extensive financial harm to all types of wireline telephone customers, from residences and small businesses, to government agencies and large companies. All the while, the largest telephone companies were making large profits, likely generating over \$1 billion in revenue by placing third-party charges on their customers’ telephone bills.

It was shocking to learn that many third-party vendors that were placing charges on telephone bills were illegitimate and appeared to have been created solely to exploit a broken system. Consumers reported being charged \$10 to \$30 a month for so-called “services” that they never authorized. These included weekly e-mail messages with “celebrity gossip” and “fashion tips,” and others completely unrelated to wireline telephone services—such as “online photo storage” and “electronic facsimile.” In some of the most egregious examples, unauthorized charges had been added to the bills for telephone lines dedicated to fire alarms, security systems, bank vaults, elevators, and 911 services.

The Committee investigation also determined that many of the services being charged to consumers’ telephone bills seemed to serve no legitimate purpose, frequently did not function properly, and were often available elsewhere for free.

The investigation involved a review of thousands of consumer complaints and interviews with more than 500 individuals and business owners whose