

under the Medicare program to a long-term care hospital for inpatient services shall not be made at the applicable site neutral payment rate for certain discharges involving severe wounds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. RISCH, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1212. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KING:

S. 1213. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 and the Federal Power Act to facilitate the free market for distributed energy resources; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 1214. A bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1215. A bill to amend the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000 to provide for the development of methane hydrate as a commercially viable source of energy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1216. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to modify a provision relating to civil penalties; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1217. A bill to establish an Interagency Rapid Response Team for Transmission, to establish an Office of Transmission Ombudsperson, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1218. A bill to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1219. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to provide for the safe and reliable interconnection of distributed resources and to provide for the examination of the effects of net metering; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1220. A bill to improve the distribution of energy in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1221. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require periodic reports on electricity reliability and reliability impact statements for rules affecting the reliable operation of the bulk-power system; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1222. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to provide for reports relating to electric capacity resources of transmission organizations and the amendment of certain tariffs to address the procurement of electric capacity resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1223. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to improve the loan guarantee program for innovative technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1224. A bill to reconcile differing Federal approaches to condensate; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1225. A bill to improve Federal land management, resource conservation, environmental protection, and use of Federal real property, by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to develop a multipurpose cadastre of Federal real property and identifying inaccurate, duplicate, and out-of-date Federal land inventories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1226. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act and the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands to promote a greater domestic helium supply, to establish a Federal helium leasing program for public land, and to secure a helium supply for national defense and Federal researchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1227. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to develop an implementation strategy to promote the development of hybrid micro-grid systems for isolated communities; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 1228. A bill to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1229. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to submit a plan to implement recommendations to improve interactions between the Department of Energy and National Laboratories; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1230. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program under which the Director of the Bureau of Land Management shall enter into memoranda of understanding with States providing for State oversight of oil and gas productions activities; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1231. A bill to require congressional notification for certain Strategic Petroleum Reserve operations and to determine options available for the continued operation of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1232. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to modify provisions relating to smart grid modernization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1233. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to expand the electric rate-setting authority of States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1234. A bill to enhance consumer rights relating to consumer report disputes by re-

quiring provision of documentation provided by consumers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1235. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to authorize Regional Corporations and Village Corporations to establish energy assistance programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1236. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to modify certain requirements relating to trial-type hearings with respect to certain license applications before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KING:

S. 1237. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to limit the authority of the Secretary of Energy to approve certain proposals relating to export activities of liquefied natural gas terminals; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REID, Mr. WARNER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HELLER, Mr. KING, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. THUNE):

S. Res. 170. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Travel and Tourism Week and honoring the valuable contributions of travel and tourism to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. VITTER):

S. Res. 171. A resolution congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 16th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 3 through May 9, 2015; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. COONS, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. Res. 172. A resolution honoring the vital role of small businesses and the passion of entrepreneurs in the United States during "National Small Business Week", from May 4, through May 8, 2015; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 173. A resolution condemning atrocities committed by Bashar al-Assad of Syria and his regime, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 85

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr.

WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 85, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a simplified income-driven repayment plan, and for other purposes.

S. 125

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 125, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 352

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes.

S. 366

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 366, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 507

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 507, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to pay higher wages to their employees.

S. 607

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 607, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program, and for other purposes.

S. 676

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 676, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent tax-related identity theft and tax fraud, and for other purposes.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as

cosponsors of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 682

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 682, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 746, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 783

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 783, a bill to provide for media coverage of Federal court proceedings.

S. 804

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 804, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 849

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 849, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection and analysis and epidemiological research regarding Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, and other neurological diseases.

S. 853

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 853, a bill to improve the efficiency and reliability of rail transportation by reforming the Surface Transportation Board, and for other purposes.

S. 1043

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1043, a bill to ensure that transportation and infrastructure projects carried out using Federal financial assistance are constructed with steel, iron, and manufactured goods that are produced in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1088

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from

Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1088, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for voter registration through the Internet, and for other purposes.

S. 1117

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1117, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to remove senior executives of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance or misconduct to include removal of certain other employees of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 1127

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1127, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes.

S. 1136

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1136, a bill relating to the modernization of C-130 aircraft to meet applicable regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1142

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1142, a bill to clarify that noncommercial species found entirely within the borders of a single State are not in interstate commerce or subject to regulation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 or any other provision of law enacted as an exercise of the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce.

S. 1148

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1148, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 1170

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1170, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research, and for other purposes.

S. 1193

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1193, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent

and expand the temporary minimum credit rate for the low-income housing tax credit program.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1232. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to modify provisions relating to smart grid modernization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am proud to introduce the Smart Grid Act of 2015.

America's trillion-dollar electricity grid is ill-equipped to meet the needs of the future. Grid outages and interruptions are estimated to cost taxpayers \$150 billion annually, according to the U.S. Department of Energy DOE. At the same time, electricity demand is expected to grow 24 percent by 2040 and electricity costs for American consumers are expected to increase 18 percent over that same period.

Yet the news is not all grim, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that \$46 billion to \$117 billion could be saved in the avoided construction costs of power plants and transmission lines over 20 years, if the United States transitions to "smart grid" technologies.

This bill promotes a more efficient and flexible electricity grid—an electricity grid that supports low-cost renewable energy, electric vehicles and energy storage, and helps consumers save money while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The bill extends cost-share grant programs created in the Energy Independence and Savings Act of 2007, EISA2007, and sets DOE on a path to help create technology communication standards that will pave the way for innovation in new household appliances and save consumer dollars.

Specifically, the bill will establish two DOE competitive grant programs to promote the modernization of the electricity grid. Among critical areas identified by the electricity industry, the new authorizations will promote grid efficiency and real time rate adjustments, in addition to driving innovations and deployment of new energy technologies. The grant programs would require an equal matching investment from the grant recipient to ensure that beneficiaries are also held accountable. The grant recipients will be required to exchange information and ideas to further the development of a modernized electric grid. The bill will also direct DOE to begin developing standards for data sharing and communication between electricity users and providers on the grid, to improve grid efficiency and reliability.

I encourage my colleagues to review and ultimately support this legislation.

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

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

S. 1232

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Smart Grid Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. SMART GRID INTEROPERABILITY WORKING GROUP.

Section 1303 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17383) is amended—

(1) by striking the section designation and heading and inserting the following:

"SEC. 1303. SMART GRID ADVISORY COMMITTEE; SMART GRID TASK FORCE; SMART GRID INTEROPERABILITY WORKING GROUP.:"

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d);

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

"(C) SMART GRID INTEROPERABILITY WORKING GROUP.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary, in collaboration with the National Institute of Standards and Technology of the Department of Commerce, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel, shall establish a working group, to be known as the 'Smart Grid Interoperability Working Group'—

"(A) to identify additional efforts the Federal Government can take to better promote the establishment and adoption of open standards that enhance connectivity and interoperability on the electric grid;

"(B) to study the market and policy barriers to deploying responsive appliances at scale; and

"(C) to develop a plan for establishing and promoting the widespread adoption of interoperability standards.

"(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Smart Grid Interoperability Working Group shall include such representatives as the Secretary determines to be appropriate from—

"(A) appliance manufacturers;

"(B) utilities;

"(C) software providers;

"(D) energy efficiency and environmental stakeholders; and

"(E) relevant Federal departments and agencies.

"(3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Smart Grid Interoperability Working Group shall submit to the Secretary a report that describes the initial findings and recommendations of the Smart Grid Interoperability Working Group, as described in paragraph (1)."; and

(4) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)), by striking "and Smart Grid Task Force" and inserting ", the Smart Grid Task Force, and the Smart Grid Interoperability Working Group".

SEC. 3. SMART GRID TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM POLICY.

Section 1304 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17384) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the second sentence, by inserting "and lessons learned from demonstration projects implemented under this section" before the period at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (D), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(F) to identify best practices for the implementation of the Fair Information Prac-

tice Principles (FIPPS) of the Federal Trade Commission for the collection, use, disclosure, and retention of individual customer information."; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking the subparagraph designation and heading and all that follows through "the initiative" and inserting the following:

"(A) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Initiative, subject to clause (ii)"; and

(II) by adding at the end the following:

"(ii) REQUIREMENT.—In selecting smart grid demonstration projects to receive assistance under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable—

"(I) geographical diversity; and

"(II) diversity among types of electricity markets and regulatory environments.";

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (F) as subparagraphs (C) through (G), respectively;

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

"(B) ADDITIONAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FUNDING.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Initiative, in addition to financial assistance provided under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall provide grants, on a competitive basis, for demonstration projects in any of the following 7 program areas:

"(I) TRANSACTIVE ENERGY.—Projects that implement a system of economic or control mechanisms that optimizes the dynamic balance of supply and demand across the electrical infrastructure, using economic value as a key operational parameter.

"(II) INNOVATION IN VALUATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY GRID SERVICES AND EFFICIENCY.—Projects that implement innovative ways of valuing the grid services provided by demand response, energy efficiency, distributed generation, electric vehicles, and storage.

"(III) RATE DESIGN-DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.—Projects that implement rates, such as 3-part rates, to equitably ensure cost-recovery and the reliability of the distribution grid, while also supporting the increased penetration of distributed generation, storage, and electric vehicles.

"(IV) RATE DESIGN-CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE OF TIME-BASED PRICING.—Projects that—

"(aa) study consumer adoption of time-based retail electricity rates through the implementation of time-based rates, in conjunction with randomized control trials; and

"(bb) may—

"(AA) provide to customers a range of time-based pricing options, as well as options to adopt enabling technology; and

"(BB) implement a heterogeneity of marketing and outreach approaches.

"(V) ENERGY STORAGE.—Projects that demonstrate innovative approaches for using energy storage for grid services, including—

"(aa) flexibility; and

"(bb) the integration of intermittent renewable energy.

"(VI) SMART ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING.—Projects that—

"(aa) demonstrate innovative approaches for integrating electric vehicles into grid operations; or

"(bb) produce, test, and certify to IEEE/UL standards bidirectional power electronics for electric vehicles.

"(VII) OTHER PROGRAM AREA.—Projects in 1 additional program area that the Secretary may identify, by regulation.

"(ii) PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS.—In selecting demonstration projects to receive grants under clause (i), the Secretary shall give priority to—