

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. FITZGERALD):

S. 1583. A bill to convert 2 temporary Federal judgeships in the central and southern districts of Illinois to permanent judgeships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 1584. A bill to establish the Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 1585. A bill to establish a Congressional Trade Office; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 1586. A bill to reduce the fractionated ownership of Indian Lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

S. 1587. A bill to amend the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 to establish within the Department of the Interior an Office of Special Trustee for Data Cleanup and Internal Control; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

S. 1588. A bill to authorize the awarding of grants to Indian tribes and tribal organizations, and to facilitate the recruitment of temporary employees to improve Native American participation in and assist in the conduct of the 2000 decennial census of population, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

S. 1589. A bill to amend the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO:

S. 1590. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify the authority of the Surface Transportation Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1591. A bill to further amend section 8 of the Puerto Rico Federal Relations Act as amended by section 606 of the Act of March 12, (P.L. 96-205) authorizing appropriations for certain insular areas of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1592. A bill to amend the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act to provide to certain nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Haiti an opportunity to apply for adjustment of status under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. FITZGERALD):

S. 1583. A bill to convert two temporary Federal judgeships in the central and southern districts of Illinois to permanent judgeships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE ILLINOIS JUDGESHIP ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today joined by colleague Senator FITZ-

GERALD, I am introducing a bill that will make two temporary federal judgeships in Illinois permanent. The Southern District of Illinois, and the Central District of Illinois each have 3 permanent judgeships and one temporary judgeship.

The Judicial Improvement Act of 1990 created these temporary judgeships to respond to a sharply increasing caseload, especially in the area of drug related crimes. President Bush appointed Judge Joe Billy McDade to fill the temporary judgeship in the Central District of Illinois and he was confirmed by the Senate in November of 1991. In September of 1992 the Senate confirmed another Bush nominee, Judge J.Phil Gilbert to fill the temporary judgeship in the Southern District of Illinois.

In 1997, Congress extended the temporary judgeships until 10 years after the confirmation of the judge appointed to fill the vacancy. As a result, the temporary judgeship in the Central District is due to expire in November of 2001 and the temporary judgeship in the Southern District will expire in September of 2002. Since the judges that serve in these positions are Article III judges with lifetime appointments, they will not be affected, but the next vacancy within each district after the expiration date will not be filled.

The Central District and the Southern District of Illinois are small courts and the loss of even one judgeship will have a dramatic impact on the caseload of the remaining judges. The statistics on this issue are compelling.

The Administrative Office of the United States Courts keeps statistics on the average amount of time that it takes a civil case to come to trial. Even with 4 judgeships, the Central District of Illinois has a substantial wait for civil litigants—24 months, which is five months longer than the national average. In the Southern District of Illinois, the numbers are equally convincing—22 months on average for a civil case to go to trial, which is three months longer than the national average.

If these courts lose one judgeship, which is the equivalent of 25% of their judges, justice for federal court litigants will be substantially delayed. This delay will be felt most by civil litigants because judges will give priority to criminal cases. At a time when Congress is seeking to expand Federal court jurisdiction, a loss of judgeships, even temporary ones is a step in the wrong direction.

Again, the numbers tell the story. Assuming court filings remain at the 1998 level, the number of cases per judge in the Central District would increase by 33% from 383 to 511. In the Southern District, the remaining judges would be expected to take on an extra 135 cases a year, an increase of

33% from 406 cases per judge to 541 cases per judge.

The two temporary judgeships in the Central and Southern Districts of Illinois must be converted into permanent positions. This measure will prevent judicial overload and ensure the continued smooth functioning of the federal court system in Illinois.

Our independent judiciary is the envy of the rest of the world. The strength of our judiciary is a unique and distinctive characteristic of our government. We must ensure that our courts have the judges they need to perform their vital functions.

I encourage my colleagues to support me in this effort and ask that the Senate consider this bill without further delay.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1583

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

**SECTION 1. DISTRICT JUDGESHIPS FOR THE
CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN DIS-
TRICTS OF ILLINOIS.**

(a) CONVERSION OF TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS TO PERMANENT JUDGESHIPS.—The existing district judgeships for the central district and the southern district of Illinois authorized by section 203(c) (3) and (4) of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-650, 28 U.S.C. 133 note) shall, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, be authorized under section 133 of title 28, United States Code, and the incumbents in such offices shall hold the offices under section 133 of title 28, United States Code (as amended by this section).

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to Illinois and inserting the following:

"Illinois	
Northern	22
Central	4
Southern	4."

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 1584. A bill to establish the Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SCHUYLKILL RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill that would establish the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area. This legislation recognizes the significance of the Schuylkill River Valley in Pennsylvania, and the role it played in the nation's economic expansion during the nineteenth century.

The Schuylkill River, and later the railroads, moved anthracite coal through the river valley to Philadelphia and beyond, fueling the industrial