

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. LOTT (for himself, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 2557. A bill to protect the Energy Security of the United States and decrease America's dependency on foreign oil sources to 50 percent by the year 2010 by enhancing the use of renewable energy resources, conserving energy resources, improving energy efficiencies, and increasing domestic energy supplies, mitigating the effect of increases in energy prices on the American consumer, including the poor and the elderly, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. BIDEN:

S. 2558. A bill to amend the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 to provide for consistent treatment of survivor benefits for public safety officers killed in the line of duty; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2559. A bill for the relief of Vijai Rajan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 2560. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Mesamoll; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 2561. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Vulkalent E/C; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 2562. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Baytron M; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 2563. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Baytron C-R; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 2564. A bill to provide tax incentives for the construction of seagoing cruise ships in United States shipyards, and to facilitate the development of a United States-flag, United States-built cruise industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 2565. A bill to reform the financing of Federal elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2566. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to grant the Secretary of Health and Human Services the authority to regulate tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2567. A bill to provide Outer Continental Shelf Impact Assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 2568. A bill to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 2569. A bill to ensure and enhance participation in the HUBZone program by small business concerns in Native America, to expand eligibility for certain small businesses on a trial basis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 2570. A bill to provide for the fair and equitable treatment of the Tennessee Valley Authority and its ratepayers in the event of restructuring of the electric utility industry; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2571. A bill to provide for the liquidation or reliquidation of certain entries of athletic shoes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURNS (for himself, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAMS, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2572. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to promote deployment of advanced services and foster the development of competition for the benefit of consumers in all regions of the Nation by relieving unnecessary burdens on the Nation's two percent local exchange telecommunications carriers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. LOTT, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HELMS, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. SARBANES):

S. Con. Res. 113. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress in recognition of the 10th anniversary of the free and fair elections in Burma and the urgent need to improve the democratic and human rights of the people of Burma; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2559. A bill for the relief of Vijai Rajan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PRIVATE RELIEF LEGISLATION GRANTING UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP TO VIJAI RAJAN

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to grant United States citizenship to Vijai Rajan. Ms. Rajan is a twenty-four year old permanent resident from India whose naturalization application was denied because of physical disabilities that make it impossible for her to take the oath of allegiance.

Ms. Rajan has lived in the United States since she was four months old. Her sister, Inbhu, was born in Cincinnati and is an American citizen by

right of her birth in the United States. Her father Sunder Rajan became a naturalized citizen in 1980. But Ms. Rajan's mother Shakunthala, was not naturalized until 1994, just after Vijai's 18th birthday. If both parents had become citizens before Rajan turned 18, she would have automatically qualified for citizenship.

Unfortunately, due to this peculiar circumstance, the law now requires that Ms. Rajan undergo the rigors of the regular naturalization process, including taking the oath of allegiance, before she can become a United States citizen.

An anomaly in the law has resulted in Ms. Rajan being left out of her family's American dream, for no other reason than because her physical disabilities prevent her from taking the oath of allegiance. Ms. Rajan suffers from cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, seizures, and Crohn's disease.

American citizenship is the most visible sign of one's attachment to the United States. The naturalization process, including the oath of allegiance, should be credible, and it must be accorded the formality and ceremony appropriate to its importance. I would not support any steps that would detract from the meaningfulness, solemnity, and dignity of this time-honored tradition.

In 1952, when Congress codified the requirements for becoming an American citizen, it required that the oath contain five elements: (1) support for the Constitution; (2) renunciation of prior allegiance; (3) defense of the Constitution against all enemies; (4) true faith and allegiance; and (5) a commitment to bear arms or perform non-combatant service when required.

I believe these principles should remain intact. But I also believe that we should carry out these ideals with compassion and sufficient flexibility that persons who are so severely disabled, like Ms. Rajan, are not automatically disqualified from becoming U.S. citizens.

I believe the case of Vijai Rajan is compelling and warrants Congress' immediate consideration. Moreover, I am aware that there are other cases in which a physical disability has prevented an otherwise qualified person from becoming an American citizen. I intend to work to enact legislation that will give the Attorney General the discretion to act on such compelling cases without having to resort to a private act of Congress.

In the meantime, I urge my colleagues to support this private legislation on behalf of Vijai Rajan.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 2560. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Mesamoll; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2561. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Vulkalent E/C; to the Committee on Finance.