

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 177

Whereas, on December 16, 2005, the United States Congress passed the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005, commonly referred to as the "GO Zone Act", which was signed by the president of the United States on December 21, 2005, and which establishes tax incentives and bond provisions to rebuild the local and regional economies devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

Whereas, the GO Zone Act permits businesses to claim an additional first-year depreciation deduction equal to fifty percent of the cost of qualified new property investments made in the GO Zone; this depreciation allowance applies to software, leasehold improvements, and certain equipment and real estate expenditures; all depreciation deductions are exempt from alternative minimum taxes, and this tax incentive applies to property placed in service through December 31, 2007, or December 31, 2008, in the case of real property; and

Whereas, in Louisiana, the Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita GO Zones are made up of thirty-seven parishes, namely: Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Vernon, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana; and

Whereas, on December 9, 2006, the United States Congress passed the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, which was signed by the president of the United States on December 20, 2006, which extends for two years the deadlines for benefitting from the bonus depreciation under the GO Zone Act in order to give additional time for reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts; and

Whereas, the extension of the GO Zone bonus depreciation benefit only applies in certain highly damaged areas in Louisiana, namely the parishes of Calcasieu, Cameron, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, and Washington; and

Whereas, the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita is not limited to the "highly damaged areas" in Louisiana but is prevalent in all of the parishes in the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita GO Zones; and

Whereas, there is a critical need for more time to rebuild in all of the GO Zone areas, not just in the seven parishes deemed to be the "highly damaged areas". Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to extend the deadline for benefitting from the bonus depreciation until December 31, 2010, for all parishes in Louisiana which are included in the Katrina and Rita GO Zones. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and the secretary of the United States Senate and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-421. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging Congress to reauthorize the DNA backlog program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 281

Whereas, the Debbie Smith DNA backlog grant program was part of the Justice for All Act of 2004, Public Law No. 108-405. This legislation assists in the reduction of DNA backlogs and improvement of the utilization of DNA in the criminal justice system in the

state of Michigan and every state throughout the nation; and

Whereas, DNA technology is increasingly vital to ensuring accuracy and fairness in the criminal justice system. Thousands of law enforcement investigations have been aided nationwide because of DNA matches made through the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), bringing justice to victims and removing criminals from the streets. Also, the Innocence Project has used DNA in over 200 cases to exonerate persons who were wrongfully convicted of crimes; and

Whereas, the state of Michigan and other states throughout the nation have significantly expanded their DNA programs to include a growing number of convicted or arrested felons to match against unsolved crimes; and

Whereas, the demand for DNA testing in both violent and nonviolent crimes has continued to increase as the reliability of this evidence is proven. Many laboratories still maintain DNA backlogs of six months or longer and are unable to meet the growing demand for DNA testing despite funding commitments from state and local governments; and

Whereas, the Debbie Smith DNA backlog grant program has permitted state and local governments an opportunity to begin to maximize the full potential of forensic DNA through backlog reduction, but much work remains to be done: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the United States Congress to reauthorize the DNA backlog program; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BAUCUS, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S.J. Res. 41. A joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

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 Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. COLEMAN):

S. 3309. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2523 7th Avenue East in North Saint Paul, Minnesota, as the Mayor William "Bill" Sandberg Post Office Building; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3310. A bill to provide benefits under the Post-Development/Mobilization Respite Absence program for certain periods before the implementation of the program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3311. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve mental and behavioral health services on college campuses; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 3312. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that victims of public health emergencies have meaningful and immediate access to medically necessary health care services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REID:

S. 3313. A bill to establish a Federal Polygamy Task Force, to authorize assistance for victims of polygamy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3314. A bill to protect the oceans and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 3315. A bill to prohibit the distribution or sale of video games that do not have age-based content rating labels, to prohibit the sale or rental of video games with adult content ratings to minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 3316. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the use of corrosion prevention and mitigation measures in the construction and maintenance of business property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 3317. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 West Main Street in Waterville, New York, as the "Corporal John P. Sigsbee Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 3318. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for recognition of equality of physician work in all geographic areas and revisions to the practice expense geographic adjustment under the Medicare physician fee schedule; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 3319. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require corrosion mitigation and prevention plans for bridges receiving Federal funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KYL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SMITH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3320. A bill to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act, the Indian Tribal Justice Act, the Indian Tribal Justice Technical and Legal Assistance Act of 2000, and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to improve the prosecution of, and response to, crimes in Indian country, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 3321. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide coordinated leadership in Federal efforts to prevent and reduce overweight and obesity and to promote sound health and nutrition among Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. BOND, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 3322. A bill to provide tax relief for the victims of severe storms, tornadoes, and

flooding in the Midwest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. OBAMA, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S.J. Res. 45. A joint resolution expressing the consent and approval of Congress to an inter-state compact regarding water resources in the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 620. A resolution designating the week of September 14-20, 2008, as National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week, to raise public awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease, and to foster understanding of the impact polycystic kidney disease has on patients and future generations of their families; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBARK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 621. A resolution honoring and commemorating the selfless acts of heroism displayed by the late Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police on July 24, 1998, and expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the professionalism and dedication of the United States Capitol Police; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 450

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 450, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 594

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 594, a bill to limit the use, sale, and transfer of cluster munitions.

S. 648

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 648, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the eligibility age for receipt of non-regular military service retired pay for members of the Ready Reserve in active federal status or on active duty for significant periods.

S. 718

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 718, a bill to optimize the delivery of critical care medicine and expand the critical care workforce.

S. 1050

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1050, a bill to amend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Public Health Service Act to set standards for medical diagnostic equipment and to establish a program for promoting good health, disease prevention, and wellness and for the prevention of secondary conditions for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1232

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1232, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop a voluntary policy for managing the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes.

S. 1276

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1276, a bill to establish a grant program to facilitate the creation of methamphetamine precursor electronic logbook systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1287

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1287, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an offset against income tax refunds to pay for State judicial debts that are past-due.

S. 1328

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1328, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and expand the drug discount program under section 340B of such Act to improve the provision of discounts on drug purchases for certain safety net providers.

S. 1588

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1588, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a minor child's congenital or developmental deformity or disorder due to trauma, infection, tumor, or disease.

S. 1850

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1850, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the treatment of Indian tribal governments as State governments for purposes of issuing tax-exempt governmental bonds, and for other purposes.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to understand and comprehensively address the oral health problems associated with methamphetamine use.

S. 1907

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1907, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to understand and comprehensively address the inmate oral health problems associated with methamphetamine use, and for other purposes.

S. 2035

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 2035, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions