

**MARKUP OF H.R. 9488, H.R. 7764, H.R. 6394,  
H.R. 6969, H.R. 9489, H.R. 9487, and H.R. 6242**

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**MARKUP**

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON HOUSE  
ADMINISTRATION**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**

**SECOND SESSION**

—————  
**SEPTEMBER 11, 2024**  
—————

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WASHINGTON : 2024

**COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION**

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**MARKUP OF H.R. 9488, H.R. 7764, H.R. 6394,  
H.R. 6969, H.R. 9489, H.R. 9487, and H.R. 6242**

**September 11, 2024**

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, D.C.*

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 11:19 a.m., in room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Bryan Steil [Chairman of the Committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Steil, Loudermilk, Bice, Carey, D'Esposito, Lee, Morelle, Torres, and Kilmer.

Staff present: March Bell, General Counsel; Annemarie Cake, Professional Staff and Deputy Clerk; Rachel Collins, Deputy General Counsel; Alexander Deise, Parliamentarian; Thomas Lane, Elections Counsel and Director of Elections Coalitions; Kristen Monterroso, Legislative Clerk; Marissa Mullen, Deputy Director of Member Services; Phillip Pinegar, Oversight Professional Staff; Michael Platt, Staff Director; Elliot Smith, Director of Oversight; Jordan Wilson, Director of Member Services; Khalil Abboud, Minority Deputy Staff Director; Jamie Fleet, Minority Staff Director; Sarah Nasta, Minority Senior Advisor and Director; Matt Schlesinger, Minority Senior Counsel; and Sean Wright, Minority Chief Counsel.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BRYAN STEIL, CHAIRMAN OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, A U.S. REP-  
RESENTATIVE FROM WISCONSIN**

Chairman STEIL. The Committee on House Administration will come to order.

I note that a quorum is present.

Without objection, the chair may declare a recess at any time.

Today we will consider multiple pieces of legislation that showcase the work of this Committee over the Congress. We will consider legislation that will enhance election integrity, something this Committee has been working on since the beginning of the Congress.

As Chairman of this Committee, my focus has been on increasing participation and restoring Americans' confidence in our elections.

My bill, the Secure Handling of Internet Electronic Donations, or the SHIELD Act, will do just that. The SHIELD Act strengthens donor verification standards for political committees.

Increasing election integrity should be a nonpartisan issue, and I hope today's discussion will help prove that.

Other pieces of legislation we will be considering today are also nonpartisan in nature.

Our first bill will sunset the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress. This Advisory Committee was established in 1990, a time when records management was not clearly established for the legislative branch. The Advisory Committee met its objective to set good management standards, which makes it redundant to ongoing efforts in the House, the Senate, and the Center for Legislative Archives. This legislation will save taxpayer dollars while ensuring good legislative record keeping.

The second bill will make small changes to the House Office of Legislative Counsel. This office provides a critical function—to take our ideas and craft them into legislation. Specifically, this measure will designate one deputy to manage this office should there be any vacancy with the Legislative Counsel.

We will also be considering a bill to establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution.

Since 1976, the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, based in Philadelphia, served as the only museum in our Nation dedicated to telling the full story of the American Jewish experience.

This legislation would commission a study to determine the feasibility of the Smithsonian Institution to incorporate the Weitzman Museum into its collection.

Additional pieces of legislation that will be considered will honor American values and our history. From honoring one of our Founding Fathers with a publicly accessible statue in the Capitol to the creation of a congressional time capsule, each piece of legislation would preserve and honor this great country's history.

I look forward to a thoughtful discussion on the legislation before us today, and I yield.

#### **PREPARED STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION BRYAN STEIL**

Today we will consider multiple pieces of legislation that showcase the work of this Committee over the Congress. We will consider legislation that will enhance election integrity, something this Committee has been working on since the beginning of the Congress.

As Chairman of this Committee, my focus has been on increasing participation and restoring Americans' confidence in our elections.

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I look forward to a thoughtful discussion on the legislation before us today, and I yield.

I will now recognize the Ranking Member, Mr. Morelle, for 5 minutes for the purpose of offering an opening statement.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOSEPH MORELLE, RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW YORK**

Mr. MORELLE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for convening today's markup.

I am pleased to see several important bills aimed at improving legislative branch operations and supporting our cultural institutions on the agenda, and as each bill is called up I will offer some very, very brief remarks.

I do want to express my appreciation for your efforts and the work of the staff to reach bipartisan consensus on these measures.

I am also looking forward to our discussion on the elections-related measures on the agenda and expect to support a bill on the integrity of our campaign finances. I want to do some comments with regard to that, however.

I appreciate this. We look to have, I hope, a consensus and support from our Members on the bill. Again, I want to thank you and your staff and all the Members for the cooperation with that.

**PREPARED STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION JOSEPH MORELLE**

I am pleased to see several important bills aimed at improving legislative branch operations and supporting our cultural institutions on the agenda, and as each bill is called up I will offer some very, very brief remarks.

I do want to express my appreciation for your efforts and the work of the staff to reach bipartisan consensus on these measures.

I am also looking forward to our discussion on the elections-related measures on the agenda and expect to support a bill on the integrity of our campaign finances. I want to do some comments with regard to that, however.

I appreciate this. We look to have, I hope, a consensus and support from our Members on the bill. Again, I want to thank you and your staff and all the Members for the cooperation with that.

I yield back.

Chairman STEIL. The gentleman yields back.

I will now call up H.R. 9488, the Secure Handling of Internet Electronic Donations Act, the SHIELD Act.

As noted, the SHIELD Act would prohibit political committees from accepting contributions from debit or credit cards without the disclosure of the Card Verification Value, or the CVV, and the billing address associated with the card.

Additionally, the legislation would prohibit the acceptance of contributions from prepaid debit or gift cards.

Finally, the SHIELD Act will strengthen laws that prohibit aiding and abetting making a contribution in another person's name.

This has been a top legislative recommendation from the Federal Election Commission for years. This bill will strengthen campaign finance laws and enhance election integrity.

As we approach election day, it is more important than ever that we continue our work to protect American election integrity.

I want to thank my colleagues for their work and co-sponsorship of this important legislation.

I also want to thank our staff and my Democratic colleagues and their staff for their collaboration on getting this bill into final form.

I will now recognize Ranking Member Morelle if you would like to give a statement on the bill.

Mr. MORELLE. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I am, as others are, deeply committed to protecting the integrity of our campaign finance system. Preventing fraudulent fundraising practices is an important endeavor, and for that reason, I anticipate supporting the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute before us today.

Indeed, the question on whether to include CVV numbers with contributions or ban gift cards and prepaid card contributions is not a new one. Prohibiting aiding and abetting the making of a contribution in the name of another has been a longstanding bipartisan FEC legislative recommendation.

I do want to, however, make a broader point, which is, in my opinion, the majority could and should have brought forward these reforms at any point over the last 20 months. In fact, the Committee has instead focused its efforts on other elections-related endeavors.

We had, for instance, a multi-panel hearing on a paper ballot shortage in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania; a hearing assessing the law enforcement response to the multiple pipe bombs on January 6—3 years after the attack on the Capitol; a long markup last July on the ACE Act, a bill full of measures hostile to voting rights that perpetuated the former President's big lie and would flood even more dark money into our political system; and the Committee's stewardship of the SAVE Act, former President Trump and Speaker Johnson's extreme MAGA bill that would harm every American, but particularly military voters and married women.

This bill, the SHIELD Act, was introduced 2 days ago. The majority did not seek our input on drafting the bill. If they had, I would have suggested to my majority colleagues there are some critical issues that I think the bill should address.

For starters, the bill misunderstands how online payments processing works and would severely restrict donors from being able to contribute through online platforms.

The bill would require platforms to collect CVV information for all online contributions made with a credit card or debit card at the time the contribution is made.

Payment card industry data security standards requirements, however, prohibit payment processors from storing CVV information.

In turn, this requirement will prohibit processing transactions, contributions to political candidates, involving saved payment information.

Saved payment information is a key to donors making recurring contributions, something candidates on both sides of the aisle receive. Donors would likewise be unable to use common third-party payment processors like Apple Pay, PayPal, and Google Pay, which frequently do not provide CVV information.

The legislation confusingly includes requirements for lawful permanent residents living outside the United States. I am not sure how familiar the majority is with the requirements of obtaining a green card, but green card holders do not typically seek to live outside the United States.

The language is confusing at best. It certainly needs to be looked at and revised. The bill gives the FEC 10 days to issue regulations, something that will force the Commission to regulate without the benefit of public comment.

Finally, campaign treasurers are required to retain all contributor information, but the bill fails to specify for how long they have to retain that information, which could mean forever. In fact, if I were a treasurer, I would assume it means forever. That is a big change when you consider the standard 3-year retention policy applicable at FEC regulations.

Those are just a few of the examples of problems of the bill. I do not think they argue against doing it. We would have liked the opportunity and our staff to work to create solutions to these problems, which can be overcome, but there was just not enough time to do it from the bill's introduction to markup to fix what I consider are some serious problems.

Here is the rub. We know what this is about. The majority introduced the bill this week without input from the minority. We are marking up the bill 55 days before the election. This is not promoting election integrity.

Committee Democrats, we are not going to fall for it. We care deeply about it. That will be our North Star, making sure that elections are protected.

I recommend colleagues support the measure, but we should be clear-eyed about the flaws with the bill, and we should in the future take some time to make sure that we get this right. With those reservations, I will support the bill.

I yield back.

Chairman STEIL. The gentleman yields back.

The clerk will please report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 9488—

Chairman STEIL. Without objection, the first reading of the bill is dispensed with. Also, without objection, the bill shall be considered as read and open to amendment at any point.

[House bill H.R. 9488 follows:]

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require the disclosure of the card verification value as a condition of the acceptance of online contributions made through the use of credit or debit cards in elections for Federal office and to prohibit the acceptance of contributions made through the use of gift cards and prepaid credit cards in such elections, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. STEIL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require the disclosure of the card verification value as a condition of the acceptance of online contributions made through the use of credit or debit cards in elections for Federal office and to prohibit the acceptance of contributions made through the use of gift cards and prepaid credit cards in such elections, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

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1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Secure Handling of  
3 Internet Electronic Donations Act” or the “SHIELD  
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF CARD VERIFICATION**  
6 **VALUE AS CONDITION OF ACCEPTANCE OF**  
7 **ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE USING CRED-**  
8 **IT OR DEBIT CARDS IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.**

9 (a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Section 302 of the Federal  
10 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30102) is  
11 amended by adding at the end the following:

12 “(j)(1) No political committee shall accept any Inter-  
13 net credit or debit card contribution unless—

14 “(A) the individual or entity making such con-  
15 tribution is required, at the time such individual  
16 makes such contribution, to disclose the card  
17 verification value of such credit or debit card; and

18 “(B)(i) the billing address associated with such  
19 credit or debit card is located in the United States;  
20 or

21 “(ii) in the case of a contribution made by an  
22 individual who is a United States national or lawful  
23 permanent resident living outside of the United  
24 States, the individual provides the committee with—

25 “(I) the United States mailing address the  
26 individual uses for voter registration purposes;

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1           “(II) a copy of the individual’s United  
2           States passport;

3           “(III) a copy of the individual’s permanent  
4           resident card; or

5           “(IV) a copy of a comparable acceptable  
6           identification document, or the unique identi-  
7           fying number from such a document, for the in-  
8           dividual.

9           “(2) Notwithstanding subsection (b) or (c), in the  
10          case of an Internet credit or debit card contribution—

11          “(A) no later than 10 days after receiving the  
12          contribution, the person who receives the contribu-  
13          tion shall forward to the treasurer such contribution,  
14          the name and address of the person making the con-  
15          tribution, and the date of receipt; and

16          “(B) the treasurer of a political committee shall  
17          keep an account of the name and address of any  
18          person making any such contribution, together with  
19          the date and amount of such contribution by any  
20          person.

21          “(3) In this subsection, the term ‘Internet credit or  
22          debit card contribution’ means a contribution that—

23                 “(A) is made using a credit or debit card; and

24                 “(B) is received through an Internet website.”.

25          (b) REGULATIONS.—

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1 (1) DEADLINE.—Not later than 10 days after  
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal  
3 Election Commission shall promulgate regulations to  
4 carry out the amendments made by subsection (a).

5 (2) CONSULTATION WITH CREDIT CARD PAY-  
6 MENT NETWORKS.—In promulgating regulations  
7 under paragraph (1), the Commission shall consult  
8 with representatives of payment card networks, as  
9 defined under section 921(c) of the Electronic Fund  
10 Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693o–2(c)).

11 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
12 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to contributions  
13 made after the expiration of the 180-day period which be-  
14 gins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

15 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITING ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS**  
16 **MADE USING GIFT CARDS AND PREPAID**  
17 **CREDIT CARDS IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.**

18 (a) PROHIBITION.—Section 302 of the Federal Elec-  
19 tion Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30102), as amend-  
20 ed by section 2(a), is amended by adding at the end the  
21 following:

22 “(k) No political committee shall accept a contribu-  
23 tion made through the use of a general-use prepaid card,  
24 gift certificate, or store gift card, as such terms are de-

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1 fined, respectively, under section 915(a) of the Electronic  
2 Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693l-1(a)).”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
4 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to contributions  
5 made after the expiration of the 180-day period which be-  
6 gins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

7 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITING AIDING OR ABETTING MAKING OF**  
8 **CONTRIBUTION IN THE NAME OF ANOTHER.**

9 Section 320 of the Federal Election Campaign Act  
10 of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30122) is amended by adding at the  
11 end the following new sentence: “No person shall know-  
12 ingly direct, help, or assist any person in making a con-  
13 tribution in the name of another person.”.

Chairman STEIL. I have an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute at the desk. The clerk will please report the amendment.

The CLERK. Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute—

Chairman STEIL. Without objection, the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute is considered as read and will be considered as original text for the purpose to of further amendment.

[Chairman Steil's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 9488 follows:]

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**  
**TO H.R. 9488**  
**OFFERED BY M. \_\_\_\_\_**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Secure Handling of  
3 Internet Electronic Donations Act” or the “SHIELD  
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF CARD VERIFICATION**  
6 **VALUE AS CONDITION OF ACCEPTANCE OF**  
7 **ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE USING CRED-**  
8 **IT OR DEBIT CARDS IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.**

9 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Section 302 of the Federal  
10 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30102) is  
11 amended by adding at the end the following:

12 “(j)(1) No political committee shall accept any Inter-  
13 net credit or debit card contribution unless—

14 “(A) the individual or entity making such con-  
15 tribution is required, at the time such individual  
16 makes such contribution, to disclose the card  
17 verification value of such credit or debit card; and

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1           “(B)(i) the billing address associated with such  
2           credit or debit card is located in the United States;  
3           or

4           “(ii) in the case of a contribution made by an  
5           individual living outside of the United States who, at  
6           the time the individual makes the contribution, is a  
7           United States national or an individual who is law-  
8           fully admitted for permanent residence, as defined  
9           by section 101(a)(20) of the Immigration and Na-  
10          tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20)), the individual  
11          provides the committee with—

12                   “(I) the United States mailing address the  
13                   individual uses for voter registration purposes;

14                   “(II) a copy of the individual’s United  
15                   States passport;

16                   “(III) a copy of the individual’s permanent  
17                   resident card; or

18                   “(IV) a copy of a comparable acceptable  
19                   identification document, or the unique identi-  
20                   fying number from such a document, for the in-  
21                   dividual.

22          “(2) Notwithstanding subsection (b) or (c), in the  
23          case of an Internet credit or debit card contribution—

24                   “(A) no later than 10 days after receiving the  
25                   contribution, the person who receives the contribu-

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1       tion shall forward to the treasurer such contribution,  
2       the name and address of the person making the con-  
3       tribution, and the date of receipt; and

4           “(B) the treasurer of a political committee shall  
5       keep an account of the name and address of any  
6       person making any such contribution, together with  
7       the date and amount of such contribution by any  
8       person.

9       “(3) If the treasurer of a political committee shows  
10      that best efforts have been used to comply with the re-  
11      quirements of this subsection, the committee shall be con-  
12      sidered in compliance with this subsection.

13      “(4) In this subsection, the term ‘Internet credit or  
14      debit card contribution’ means a contribution that—

15           “(A) is made using a credit or debit card; and

16           “(B) is received through an Internet website.”.

17      (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by  
18      subsection (a) shall apply to contributions the receipt of  
19      which a political committee is required to include in a re-  
20      port filed under section 304 of the Federal Election Cam-  
21      paign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104) on or after the date  
22      of the enactment of this Act.

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1 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITING ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS**  
 2 **MADE USING GIFT CARDS IN FEDERAL ELEC-**  
 3 **TIONS.**

4 (a) PROHIBITION.—Section 302 of the Federal Elec-  
 5 tion Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30102), as amend-  
 6 ed by section 2(a), is amended by adding at the end the  
 7 following:

8 “(k)(1) No political committee shall accept a con-  
 9 tribution made through the use of a general-use prepaid  
 10 card, gift certificate, or store gift card, as such terms are  
 11 defined, respectively, under section 915(a) of the Elec-  
 12 tronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693l–1(a)).

13 “(2) If the treasurer of a political committee shows  
 14 that best efforts have been used to comply with the re-  
 15 quirements of this subsection, the committee shall be con-  
 16 sidered in compliance with this subsection.”.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
 18 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to contributions the  
 19 receipt of which a political committee is required to in-  
 20 clude in a report filed under section 304 of the Federal  
 21 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104) on or  
 22 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

23 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITING AIDING OR ABETTING MAKING OF**  
 24 **CONTRIBUTION IN THE NAME OF ANOTHER.**

25 Section 320 of the Federal Election Campaign Act  
 26 of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30122) is amended by adding at the

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1 end the following new sentence: “No person shall know-  
 2 ingly direct, help, or assist any person in making a con-  
 3 tribution in the name of another person.”.

4 **SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.**

5 (a) **DEADLINE.**—Not later than 10 days after the  
 6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Election  
 7 Commission shall promulgate regulations to carry out the  
 8 amendments made by this Act.

9 (b) **CONSULTATION WITH CREDIT CARD PAYMENT**  
 10 **NETWORKS.**—In promulgating regulations under sub-  
 11 section (a) to carry out the amendments made by sections  
 12 2 and 3, the Commission shall consult with representatives  
 13 of payment card networks, as defined under section 921(c)  
 14 of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693o-  
 15 2(c)).

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend the  
 Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require the  
 disclosure of the card verification value as a condition of  
 the acceptance of online contributions made through the  
 use of credit or debit cards in elections for Federal office  
 and to prohibit the acceptance of contributions made  
 through the use of gift cards in such elections, and for  
 other purposes.”.



Chairman STEIL. Does any Member seek recognition for amendment or debate?

Congresswoman Bice?

Mrs. BICE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am proud to cosponsor the SHIELD Act, common-sense legislation that will close loopholes currently allowing illegal donations to fund campaigns.

This is necessary because some online portals are not taking steps to protect against fraudulent donations. When enacted, the bill will require the same information you submit when making an online purchase, a CVV and an address.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back.

Chairman STEIL. The gentlewoman yields back.

I will recognize myself for 5 minutes—or for purpose of striking the last word.

Per the Ranking Member's remarks in our sidebar just now, we would love to engage in working on any potential adjustments prior to this bill coming to the House floor. We could work on a manager's amendment at that time.

The speed at which this is coming I think is important, because I think we have seen some anecdotal evidence of illegal contributions.

We have identified this loophole through a robust review of our campaign finance laws, and as this loophole was exposed, we think this is the opportunity to make sure that it is closed.

I am proud of the work that this Committee has done over the course of 2 years to further election integrity. As this loophole is identified, I think it is imperative for all of us to come together to close the loophole.

I thank the Ranking Member's support of the legislation and will be open to any further adjustments that may be necessary between now and this legislation seeing floor action.

Does any other Member seek recognition?

Representative Kilmer?

Mr. KILMER. Thank you, Chairman. Just briefly.

If we are looking at ways in which the Federal Election Commission can be more effective, Representative Fitzpatrick and I have a bipartisan bill called the Restoring Integrity to America's Elections Act that looks at some changes to the Federal Election Commission that are bipartisan, with an eye toward professionalizing it and getting it out of persistent stalemate.

If between here and the floor there is an attempt to look at potential changes, I would just request that that be a bill that is incorporated.

I yield back.

Chairman STEIL. The gentleman yields back. I will take that under consideration for sure.

Does any other Member seek recognition for amendment or debate?

There being no further amendment or debate, the question now occurs on the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute.

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it, and the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute is adopted.

The question now occurs on ordering H.R. 9488, as amended, reported favorably to the House.

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it, and the motion to report is agreed to.

A majority having voted in favor of H.R. 9488, as amended, the bill is ordered favorably reported to the House.

Without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

I now call up H.R. 7764, the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution Act.

The nonpartisan legislation would create a commission to study the absorption of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History into the Smithsonian Institution.

We are in a critical time where our ally Israel needs our support. With the rise of antisemitism in this country and around the world, it is crucial that we are protecting Jewish American history and expanding education efforts. By studying this potential absorption, we can ensure that the museum is maintained for years to come.

I will now recognize the Ranking Member, Mr. Morelle, if he would like to give a statement on the bill.

Mr. MORELLE. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am very grateful to you for working to advance H.R. 7764, as you indicated, a bipartisan bill creating a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian.

Since the first Jews fled the Portuguese inquisition in 1654 and arrived in New Amsterdam, what is now called New York City, Jewish Americans have contributed to the country in innumerable ways, which includes my hometown of Rochester, New York, where Jewish Americans have been an integral part of our community, establishing our first synagogue in the 1840's and building a thriving business community around Joseph Avenue in the early 20th century, and contributing to the cultural diversity that makes my community such a wonderful place to live.

Across this Nation, Jewish Americans have served at some of the highest levels of Government, won Nobel Prizes, created enduring pieces of art and literature, and been at the forefront of virtually all fights for social justice, freedom, and equality.

It pains me, as I am sure it does you, Mr. Chair, and all the Members, that antisemitism in the United States has increased significantly, fueled by attacks on Jewish Americans after the October 7 terrorist attacks in Israel, as well as the seemingly unbridled growth of racism, extremism around the country.

I just want to, again, thank you. The historic levels of anti-semitism have to be addressed. This is one way to do that in a thoughtful way and move this commission forward.

I, again, want to thank you, want to thank my colleagues and the staff for advancing this, and we will certainly be in the affirmative.

Thank you, sir.

Chairman STEIL. I thank the Ranking Member for his support and his remarks.

The clerk will please report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 7764—

Chairman STEIL. Without objection, the first reading of the bill is dispensed with. Also, without objection, the bill shall be considered as read and open to amendment at any point.

[House bill H.R. 7764 follows:]

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7764

To establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2024

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MILLER of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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## A BILL

To establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Commission to Study  
5 the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum  
6 of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institu-  
7 tion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established the Commis-  
3 sion to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman Na-  
4 tional Museum of American Jewish History to the Smith-  
5 sonian Institution (hereafter in this Act referred to as the  
6 “Commission”).

7 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Commission shall be com-  
8 posed of 9 members, of whom—

9 (1) 2 voting members shall be appointed by the  
10 majority leader of the Senate;

11 (2) 2 voting members shall be appointed by the  
12 Speaker of the House of Representatives;

13 (3) 2 voting members shall be appointed by the  
14 minority leader of the Senate;

15 (4) 2 voting members shall be appointed by the  
16 minority leader of the House of Representatives; and

17 (5) 1 nonvoting member shall be appointed by  
18 the board of the Weitzman National Museum of  
19 American Jewish History.

20 (c) **QUALIFICATION.**—Members of the Commission  
21 shall be appointed to the Commission from among individ-  
22 uals, or representatives of institutions or entities, who pos-  
23 sess—

24 (1)(A) a demonstrated commitment to the re-  
25 search, study, or promotion of Jewish American his-

1 tory, art, political or economic status, or culture;  
2 and

3 (B)(i) expertise in museum administration;

4 (ii) expertise in fund-raising for nonprofit or  
5 cultural institutions;

6 (iii) experience in the study and teaching of  
7 Jewish American history;

8 (iv) experience in the study and teaching of  
9 combating and countering antisemitism;

10 (v) experience in studying the issue of the rep-  
11 resentation of Jewish Americans in art, life, history,  
12 and culture at the Smithsonian Institution; or

13 (vi) extensive experience in public or elected  
14 service;

15 (2) experience in the administration of, or the  
16 strategic planning for, museums; or

17 (3) experience in the planning or design of mu-  
18 seum facilities.

19 (d) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—The  
20 initial members of the Commission shall be appointed not  
21 later than the date that is 90 days after the date of enact-  
22 ment of this Act.

23 (e) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission—

24 (1) shall not affect the powers of the Commis-  
25 sion; and

1           (2) shall be filled in the same manner as the  
2 original appointment was made.

3           (f) CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall, by major-  
4 ity vote of all of the voting members, select 1 member of  
5 the Commission to serve as the Chairperson of the Com-  
6 mission.

7           (g) PROHIBITION.—No employee of the Federal Gov-  
8 ernment may serve as a member of the Commission.

9 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

10          (a) REPORTS AND OTHER DELIVERABLES.—Not  
11 later than 2 years after the date of the first meeting of  
12 the Commission, the Commission shall submit to the  
13 President and to Congress the report, plan, and rec-  
14 ommendations described in paragraphs (1) through (3).

15           (1) REPORT ON ISSUES.—A report that ad-  
16 dresses the following issues relating to the Weitzman  
17 National Museum of American Jewish History in  
18 Philadelphia, PA, and its environs (hereafter in this  
19 Act referred to as the “Museum”):

20           (A) The collections held by the Museum at  
21 the time of the report, the extent to which such  
22 collections are already represented in the  
23 Smithsonian Institution and Federal memorials  
24 at the time of the report, and the availability

1 and cost of future collections to be acquired and  
2 housed in the Museum.

3 (B) The impact of the Museum on edu-  
4 cational and governmental efforts to study and  
5 counter antisemitism.

6 (C) The financial assets and liabilities held  
7 by the Museum, and the cost of operating and  
8 maintaining the Museum.

9 (D) The governance and organizational  
10 structure from which the Museum should oper-  
11 ate if transferred to the Smithsonian Institu-  
12 tion.

13 (E) The financial and legal considerations  
14 associated with the potential transfer of the  
15 Museum to the Smithsonian Institution, includ-  
16 ing—

17 (i) any donor or legal restrictions on  
18 the Museum's collections, endowments, and  
19 real estate;

20 (ii) costs associated with actions that  
21 will be necessary to resolve the status of  
22 employees of the Museum, if the Museum  
23 is transferred to the Smithsonian Institu-  
24 tion; and

1 (iii) all additional costs for the Smith-  
2 sonian Institution that would be associated  
3 with operating and maintaining a new mu-  
4 seum outside of the Washington, DC, met-  
5 ropolitan area.

6 (F) The feasibility of the Museum becom-  
7 ing part of the Smithsonian Institution, taking  
8 into account the Museum's potential impact on  
9 the Smithsonian's existing facilities mainte-  
10 nance backlog, collections storage needs, and  
11 identified construction or renovation costs for  
12 new or existing museums.

13 (2) FUND-RAISING PLAN.—A fund-raising plan  
14 that addresses the following topics:

15 (A) The ability to support the transfer, op-  
16 eration, and maintenance of the Museum  
17 through contributions from the public, including  
18 potential charges for admission.

19 (B) Any potential issues with funding the  
20 operations and maintenance of the Museum in  
21 perpetuity without reliance on appropriations of  
22 Federal funds.

23 (3) LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS.—A re-  
24 port containing recommendations regarding a legis-  
25 lative plan for transferring the Museum to the

1 Smithsonian Institution, which shall include each of  
2 the following:

3 (A) Proposals regarding the time frame,  
4 one-time appropriations level, and continuing  
5 appropriations levels that might be included in  
6 such legislation.

7 (B) Recommendations for the future name  
8 of the Museum if it is transferred to the Smith-  
9 sonian Institution.

10 (b) NATIONAL CONFERENCE.—Not later than 2  
11 years after the date on which the initial members of the  
12 Commission are appointed under section 2, the Commis-  
13 sion may, in carrying out the duties of the Commission  
14 under this section, convene a national conference relating  
15 to the Museum, to be comprised of individuals committed  
16 to the advancement of the life, art, history, and culture  
17 of Jewish Americans.

18 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

19 (a) COMPENSATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Commis-  
21 sion—

22 (A) shall not be considered to be a Federal  
23 employee for any purpose by reason of service  
24 on the Commission; and

25 (B) shall serve without pay.

1           (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the  
2 Commission shall be allowed a per diem allowance  
3 for travel expenses, at rates consistent with those  
4 authorized under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title  
5 5, United States Code.

6           (3) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.—The  
7 Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of  
8 gifts, bequests, or devises of money, services, or real  
9 or personal property for the purpose of aiding or fa-  
10 cilitating the work of the Commission. Such gifts,  
11 bequests, or devises may be from the Museum.

12           (4) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—  
13 Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not  
14 apply to the Commission.

15           (b) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate  
16 on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the  
17 final versions of the report, plan, and recommendations  
18 required under section 3 are submitted.

19           (c) FUNDING.—The Commission shall be solely re-  
20 sponsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment  
21 of the expenses of, the Commission.

22           (d) DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION.—

23                   (1) DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

24                           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may  
25 employ and compensate an executive director

1 and any other additional personnel that are  
2 necessary to enable the Commission to perform  
3 the duties of the Commission.

4 (B) RATES OF PAY.—Rates of pay for per-  
5 sons employed under subparagraph (A) shall be  
6 consistent with the rates of pay allowed for em-  
7 ployees of a temporary organization under sec-  
8 tion 3161 of title 5, United States Code.

9 (2) NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.—Any indi-  
10 vidual employed under this subsection shall not be  
11 considered a Federal employee for the purpose of  
12 any law governing Federal employment.

13 (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
15 graph (B), on request of the Commission, the  
16 head of a Federal agency shall provide technical  
17 assistance to the Commission.

18 (B) PROHIBITION.—No Federal employees  
19 may be detailed to the Commission.

20 (4) VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—Notwithstanding  
21 section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the  
22 Commission may accept and use voluntary and un-  
23 compensated services as the Commission determines  
24 necessary.

1 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon re-  
2 quest of the Commission, the Administrator of the General  
3 Services Administration shall provide to the Commission,  
4 on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support serv-  
5 ices necessary for the Commission to carry out its respon-  
6 sibilities under this Act. The involvement of the General  
7 Services Administration shall be limited to providing ad-  
8 ministrative support to the Commission, and such involve-  
9 ment shall terminate upon termination of the Commission.

10 (f) MEETING LOCATION.—The Commission may  
11 meet virtually or in-person.

12 (g) APPOINTMENT DELAYS.—The Commission may  
13 begin to meet and carry out activities under this Act be-  
14 fore all members of the Commission have been appointed  
15 if—

16 (1) 90 days have passed since the date of enact-  
17 ment of this Act; and

18 (2) a majority of the members of the Commis-  
19 sion have been appointed.

○

Chairman STEIL. I have an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute at the desk. The clerk will please report the amendment.

The CLERK. Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute—

Chairman STEIL. Without objection, the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute is considered as read and will be considered as original text for the purpose of further amendment.

[Chairman Steil's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 7764 follows:]

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 7764  
OFFERED BY MR. STEIL OF WISCONSIN**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Commission to Study  
3 the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum  
4 of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institu-  
5 tion Act”.

**6 SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Commis-  
8 sion to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman Na-  
9 tional Museum of American Jewish History to the Smith-  
10 sonian Institution (hereafter in this Act referred to as the  
11 “Commission”).

12 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be com-  
13 posed of 8 members, of whom—

14 (1) 2 voting members shall be appointed by the  
15 majority leader of the Senate;

16 (2) 2 voting members shall be appointed by the  
17 Speaker of the House of Representatives;

1           (3) 2 voting members shall be appointed by the  
2 minority leader of the Senate; and

3           (4) 2 voting members shall be appointed by the  
4 minority leader of the House of Representatives.

5           (c) QUALIFICATION.—Members of the Commission  
6 shall be appointed to the Commission from among individ-  
7 uals, or representatives of institutions or entities, who pos-  
8 sess—

9           (1)(A) a demonstrated commitment to the re-  
10 search, study, or promotion of Jewish American his-  
11 tory, art, political or economic status, or culture;  
12 and

13           (B)(i) expertise in museum administration;

14           (ii) expertise in fund-raising for nonprofit or  
15 cultural institutions;

16           (iii) experience in the study and teaching of  
17 Jewish American history;

18           (iv) experience in the study and teaching of  
19 combating and countering antisemitism;

20           (v) experience in studying the issue of the rep-  
21 resentation of Jewish Americans in art, life, history,  
22 and culture at the Smithsonian Institution; or

23           (vi) extensive experience in public or elected  
24 service;

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1 (2) experience in the administration of, or the  
2 strategic planning for, museums; or

3 (3) experience in the planning or design of mu-  
4 seum facilities.

5 (d) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—The  
6 initial members of the Commission shall be appointed not  
7 later than the date that is 90 days after the date of enact-  
8 ment of this Act.

9 (e) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission—

10 (1) shall not affect the powers of the Commis-  
11 sion; and

12 (2) shall be filled in the same manner as the  
13 original appointment was made.

14 (f) CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall, by major-  
15 ity vote of all of the voting members, select 1 member of  
16 the Commission to serve as the Chairperson of the Com-  
17 mission.

18 (g) PROHIBITION.—No employee of the Federal Gov-  
19 ernment may serve as a member of the Commission.

20 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

21 (a) REPORTS AND OTHER DELIVERABLES.—Not  
22 later than 2 years after the date of the first meeting of  
23 the Commission, the Commission shall submit to the  
24 President and to Congress the report, plan, and rec-  
25 ommendations described in paragraphs (1) through (3).

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1 (1) REPORT ON ISSUES.—A report that ad-  
2 dresses the following issues relating to the Weitzman  
3 National Museum of American Jewish History in  
4 Philadelphia, PA, and its environs (hereafter in this  
5 Act referred to as the “Museum”):

6 (A) The collections held by the Museum at  
7 the time of the report, the extent to which such  
8 collections are already represented in the  
9 Smithsonian Institution and Federal memorials  
10 at the time of the report, and the availability  
11 and cost of future collections to be acquired and  
12 housed in the Museum.

13 (B) The impact of the Museum on edu-  
14 cational and governmental efforts to study and  
15 counter antisemitism.

16 (C) The financial assets and liabilities held  
17 by the Museum, and the cost of operating and  
18 maintaining the Museum.

19 (D) The governance and organizational  
20 structure from which the Museum should oper-  
21 ate if transferred to the Smithsonian Institu-  
22 tion.

23 (E) The financial and legal considerations  
24 associated with the potential transfer of the

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1 Museum to the Smithsonian Institution, includ-  
2 ing—

3 (i) any donor or legal restrictions on  
4 the Museum's collections, endowments, and  
5 real estate;

6 (ii) costs associated with actions that  
7 will be necessary to resolve the status of  
8 employees of the Museum, if the Museum  
9 is transferred to the Smithsonian Institu-  
10 tion; and

11 (iii) all additional costs for the Smith-  
12 sonian Institution that would be associated  
13 with operating and maintaining a new mu-  
14 seum outside of the Washington, D.C. met-  
15 ropolitan area.

16 (F) The feasibility of the Museum becom-  
17 ing part of the Smithsonian Institution, taking  
18 into account the Museum's potential impact on  
19 the Smithsonian's existing facilities mainte-  
20 nance backlog, collections storage needs, and  
21 identified construction or renovation costs for  
22 new or existing museums.

23 (2) FUND-RAISING PLAN.—A fund-raising plan  
24 that addresses the following topics:

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1 (A) The ability to support the transfer, op-  
2 eration, and maintenance of the Museum  
3 through contributions from the public, including  
4 potential charges for admission.

5 (B) Any potential issues with funding the  
6 operations and maintenance of the Museum in  
7 perpetuity without reliance on appropriations of  
8 Federal funds.

9 (3) LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS.—A re-  
10 port containing recommendations regarding a legis-  
11 lative plan for transferring the Museum to the  
12 Smithsonian Institution, which shall include each of  
13 the following:

14 (A) Proposals regarding the time frame,  
15 one-time appropriations level, and continuing  
16 appropriations levels that might be included in  
17 such legislation.

18 (B) Recommendations for the future name  
19 of the Museum if it is transferred to the Smith-  
20 sonian Institution.

21 (b) NATIONAL CONFERENCE.—Not later than 2  
22 years after the date on which the initial members of the  
23 Commission are appointed under section 2, the Commis-  
24 sion may, in carrying out the duties of the Commission  
25 under this section, convene a national conference relating

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1 to the Museum, to be comprised of individuals committed  
2 to the advancement of the life, art, history, and culture  
3 of Jewish Americans.

4 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

5 (a) COMPENSATION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Commis-  
7 sion—

8 (A) shall not be considered to be a Federal  
9 employee for any purpose by reason of service  
10 on the Commission; and

11 (B) shall serve without pay.

12 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the  
13 Commission shall be allowed a per diem allowance  
14 for travel expenses, at rates consistent with those  
15 authorized under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title  
16 5, United States Code.

17 (3) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.—The  
18 Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of  
19 gifts, bequests, or devises of money, services, or real  
20 or personal property for the purpose of aiding or fa-  
21 cilitating the work of the Commission. Such gifts,  
22 bequests, or devises may be from the Museum.

23 (b) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate  
24 on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the

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1 final versions of the report, plan, and recommendations  
2 required under section 3 are submitted.

3 (c) FUNDING.—The Commission shall be solely re-  
4 sponsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment  
5 of the expenses of, the Commission.

6 (d) DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION.—

7 (1) DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may  
9 employ and compensate an executive director  
10 and any other additional personnel that are  
11 necessary to enable the Commission to perform  
12 the duties of the Commission.

13 (B) RATES OF PAY.—Rates of pay for per-  
14 sons employed under subparagraph (A) shall be  
15 consistent with the rates of pay allowed for em-  
16 ployees of a temporary organization under sec-  
17 tion 3161 of title 5, United States Code.

18 (2) NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.—Any indi-  
19 vidual employed under this subsection shall not be  
20 considered a Federal employee for the purpose of  
21 any law governing Federal employment.

22 (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
24 graph (B), on request of the Commission, the

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1 head of a Federal agency shall provide technical  
2 assistance to the Commission.

3 (B) PROHIBITION.—No Federal employees  
4 may be detailed to the Commission.

5 (4) VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—Notwithstanding  
6 section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the  
7 Commission may accept and use voluntary and un-  
8 compensated services as the Commission determines  
9 necessary.

10 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon re-  
11 quest of the Commission, the Administrator of the General  
12 Services Administration shall provide to the Commission,  
13 on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support serv-  
14 ices necessary for the Commission to carry out its respon-  
15 sibilities under this Act. The involvement of the General  
16 Services Administration shall be limited to providing ad-  
17 ministrative support to the Commission, and such involve-  
18 ment shall terminate upon termination of the Commission.

19 (f) MEETING LOCATION.—The Commission may  
20 meet virtually or in-person.

21 (g) APPOINTMENT DELAYS.—The Commission may  
22 begin to meet and carry out activities under this Act be-  
23 fore all members of the Commission have been appointed  
24 if—

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- 1 (1) 90 days have passed since the date of the
- 2 enactment of this Act; and
- 3 (2) a majority of the members of the Commis-
- 4 sion have been appointed.



Chairman STEIL. Does any other Member seek recognition for amendment or debate?

Seeing none, the question now occurs on the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute.

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it, and the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute is adopted.

The question now occurs on ordering H.R. 7764, as amended, reported favorably to the House.

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it, and the motion to report is agreed to.

A majority having voted in favor of H.R. 7764, as amended, the bill is ordered favorably reported to the House.

Without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

I now call up H.R. 6394, the Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act.

This nonpartisan legislation would authorize a time capsule to be buried on the Capitol Grounds to mark the 250th anniversary of America's founding.

The bill has the support of House Members on the America 250 Commission, established to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. Additionally, the bill already has the support of the Architect of the Capitol.

I would encourage my colleagues to support the legislation.

I will recognize the Ranking Member, Mr. Morelle, if he would like to give a statement on the bill.

Mr. MORELLE. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

As you indicated, July 4, 2026, we will celebrate our semiquincentennial, and I want to thank my staff for phonetically placing that before me so I would not stumble over it.

I think this really is significant. The time capsule, as I understand, will be determined by bipartisan, bicameral congressional leaders, include written materials, representations of important legislative milestones, and a message to our future colleagues in the 244th Congress, if we have counted properly.

I am looking to see what goes into the time capsule. I am, frankly, looking forward to when we open it, because I will be here one way or another. I—

[Laughter.]

Mr. MORELLE. I appreciate everyone bringing it forward. I think this is a great idea.

With that, I yield back.

Chairman STEIL. I have no doubt there are current Members that may be here in the 244th, but it will not be me.

The clerk will please report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 6394, to provide—

Chairman STEIL. Without objection, the first reading of the bill is dispensed with. Also, without objection, the bill shall be considered as read and open to amendment at any point.

[House bill H.R. 6394 follows:]

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6394

To provide for the creation of a Congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial of the United States, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. EVANS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, and Mr. LAWLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To provide for the creation of a Congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial of the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Semiquincentennial  
5 Congressional Time Capsule Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CONGRESSIONAL TIME CAP-**  
2 **SULE.**

3 (a) CREATION BY ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL.—  
4 The Architect of the Capitol shall create a Congressional  
5 time capsule, to be known as the “Semiquincentennial  
6 Congressional Time Capsule” (in this Act referred to as  
7 the “Time Capsule”).

8 (b) CONTENTS.—

9 (1) DETERMINATION BY CONGRESSIONAL LEAD-  
10 ERSHIP.—The Office of the Speaker of the House of  
11 Representatives, Office of the Minority Leader of the  
12 House of Representatives, Office of the Majority  
13 Leader of the Senate, and Office of the Minority  
14 Leader of the Senate shall jointly determine the con-  
15 tents of the Time Capsule, taking into account the  
16 requirements of paragraph (2).

17 (2) SPECIFICATIONS.—The contents of the  
18 Time Capsule shall include—

19 (A) a representative portion of all books,  
20 manuscripts, miscellaneous printed matter,  
21 memorabilia, relics, and other materials relating  
22 to the United States Semiquincentennial;

23 (B) copies or representations of important  
24 legislative and institutional milestones of Con-  
25 gress during the time before the Time Capsule  
26 is buried;

1 (C) a message from Congress to the future  
2 Congress when the Time Capsule will be  
3 opened; and

4 (D) such other content as the offices de-  
5 scribed in paragraph (1) consider appropriate.

6 (3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this sub-  
7 section, the offices described in paragraph (1) may  
8 consult with the Architect of the Capitol, the Sec-  
9 retary of the Smithsonian Institution, and such  
10 other entities of the Federal Government as the of-  
11 fices consider appropriate.

12 (c) DUTIES OF ARCHITECT.—The Architect of the  
13 Capitol shall—

14 (1) prepare the Time Capsule to be sealed and  
15 buried on the West Lawn of the Capitol, at a loca-  
16 tion specified by the Architect, on or before July  
17 4th, 2026, at a time which would permit individuals  
18 attending this event to also attend the burial of a  
19 time capsule in Independence Mall in Philadelphia,  
20 Pennsylvania, under section 7(f)(1) of the United  
21 States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016  
22 (36 U.S.C. 101 note prec.); and

23 (2) install a plaque to provide such information  
24 about the Time Capsule as the Architect considers  
25 appropriate.

1 (d) UNSEALING.—The Time Capsule shall be sealed  
2 until July 4th, 2276, on which date the Speaker of the  
3 House of Representatives shall present the Time Capsule  
4 to the 244th Congress, and such Congress shall determine  
5 how the contents within should be preserved or used.

6 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
7 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
8 necessary to carry out this Act, and any amounts so ap-  
9 propriated shall remain available until expended.

○

Chairman STEIL. Does any Member seek recognition for amendment or debate?

There being no further amendments, without objection, we will consider the question to report the measure at the end of the markup.

I now call up H.R. 6969, to Direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the United States Capitol.

This bill would authorize the placement of a statue of Benjamin Franklin in the U.S. Capitol accessible to the public during guided tours.

I will recognize Mr. Morelle, if he would like to give an opening statement on the bill.

Mr. MORELLE. Just to be very brief.

I spoke with Representative Chrissy Houlahan, who is a sponsor of the bill along with Representative Fitzpatrick, and while there are certainly some references—and this may be interesting to people who have both been here and to Americans who have not—certainly references to Benjamin Franklin across the Capitol in paintings. I believe there is a statue tucked away in the back hallway on the Senate side. There is no statue prominently displayed in the Capitol of one of the most important Founders of our Nation. Millions of visitors who come by here should see that, and I think this legislation would change that.

He was a statesman, a diplomat, scientist, inventor, political philosopher, businessperson, and really mentored so many people during the most difficult times of this Nation's founding, negotiated the Treaty of Paris, which ended the Revolutionary War, helped draft the Declaration.

On and on we could go. I think we all appreciate it. I think it is appropriate that we honor him and have him displayed prominently in the Capitol.

I thank you for taking up the bill and for your leadership, and, again, thank the staffs on both sides for working this out.

Looking forward to support it enthusiastically.

I yield back.

Chairman STEIL. The clerk will please report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 69—

Chairman STEIL. Without objection, the first reading of the bill is dispensed with. Also, without objection, the bill shall be considered as read and open to amendment at any point.

[House bill H.R. 6969 follows:]

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6969

To direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 11, 2024

Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. WILD, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. MACE, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. KILDEE, and Mrs. BICE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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## A BILL

To direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. PROCUREMENT AND PLACEMENT OF STATUE**  
4 **OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IN THE UNITED**  
5 **STATES CAPITOL.**

6 (a) OBTAINING OF STATUE.—Not later than 2 years  
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Joint Com-

1 mittee on the Library shall enter into an agreement to  
2 obtain a statue of Benjamin Franklin, under such terms  
3 and conditions as the Joint Committee considers appro-  
4 priate consistent with applicable law.

5 (b) PLACEMENT.—Not later than January 1, 2026,  
6 the Joint Committee shall place the statue obtained under  
7 subsection (a) in a suitable permanent location in the  
8 United States Capitol where the statue is accessible to the  
9 public during a guided tour of the Capitol provided by the  
10 Capitol Visitor Center.

○

Chairman STEIL. Does any Member seek recognition for amendment or debate?

Mrs. Bice?

Mrs. BICE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 6969, which adds to the U.S. Capitol's National Statutory Collection a new piece to honor one of our Nation's foremost Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin.

As was mentioned by Ranking Member Morelle, he was the first American diplomat, fostering our Nation's relationship with the French Government, which helped us win the Revolutionary War, and that continues, endures to this day.

I am excited to see this statue placed ahead of America's 250th birthday. As Benjamin Franklin would say, a penny saved is a penny earned, and this statue comes at no cost.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of the legislation.

Chairman STEIL. Does any other Member seek recognition?

There being no further amendments, without objection, we will consider the question to report the measure at the end of the markup.

I now call up H.R. 9489, to sunset the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress and for other purposes.

This bill sunsets the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, which is no longer needed, and be replaced with a reporting requirement for the Clerk, Secretary of the Senate, and National Archives.

The ACRC convenes twice per year to discuss records management for the House and Senate. However, the Clerk and Secretary of the Senate agree that this Committee can be replaced with a reporting requirement.

I support this legislation due to the feedback from these agencies that are directly involved with records management.

I will recognize the Ranking Member, Mr. Morelle, if he would like to give a statement on the bill.

Mr. MORELLE. Simply that I appreciate you bringing it forward, and look forward to supporting it.

I will yield back.

Chairman STEIL. The clerk will please report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 94—

Chairman STEIL. Without objection, the first reading of the bill is dispensed with. Also, without objection, the bill should be considered as read and open to amendment at any point.

[House bill H.R. 9489 follows:]

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. \_\_\_\_

To sunset the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, and for other purposes

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MR. STEIL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To sunset the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, and for other purposes.

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE;

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress Sunset Act of 2024”.

### SECTION 2. MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION OF THE RECORDS OF CONGRESS.

(a) Definitions.—In this section—

- (1) the term “Archivist” means the Archivist of the United States;
- (2) the term “Clerk” means the Clerk of the House of Representatives;
- (3) the term “Director” means the Director of the Center for Legislative Archives of the National Archives, or any successor thereto;
- (4) the term “Member of Congress” means a Member of the Senate or the House of Representatives, a Delegate to the House of Representatives, and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico; and
- (5) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Senate.

(b) Reporting.—Not later than February 1 of the second calendar year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and every calendar year thereafter, the Director shall submit to the Archivist, the Secretary, and the Clerk a report on the management and preservation of the records of Congress during the previous year.

(c) Review.—The Archivist, the Secretary, and the Clerk shall meet to review the management and preservation of the records of Congress and Members of Congress—

(1) not later than 60 days after the date on which the Director submits a report under subsection (b); and

(2) not later than 180 days after the date on which an individual is appointed to the position of Archivist, Secretary, or Clerk.

(d) Sunset of Advisory Committee.—Effective on the date that is [60] days after [DATE / EVENT], title 44 of the United States Code is amended—

(1) by striking chapter 27;

(2) by striking the table of sections relating to chapter 27; and

(3) in the table of chapters, by striking the item relating to chapter 27.

Chairman STEIL. Does any Member seek recognition?

There being no further amendments, without objection, we will consider the question and report the measure at the end of the markup.

I will now call up H.R. 9487, to amend the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 to authorize the Legislative Counsel of the House of Representatives to designate more than one of the attorneys of the Office of the Legislative Counsel as a Deputy Legislative Counsel, and for other purposes.

In the event the Legislative Counsel position is vacant, the Deputy Legislative Counsel would be given formal authority to perform all the functions of the Legislative Counsel under this legislation.

I strongly support this legislation for continuity of operations and succession purposes.

I will recognize the Ranking Member, Mr. Morelle, if you would like to give a statement on the bill.

Mr. MORELLE. Yes. Just very briefly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It has been more than 100 years since the inception of the House Office of Legislative Counsel, which I believe began as an experiment with the House Ways and Means Committee and has become truly a critical House support entity. The expert attorneys in the Office of Legislative Counsel now draft tens of thousands of bills and resolutions each Congress, and the number is growing exponentially when you account for the many drafts of a measure as it is being refined.

It is an increasing number of amendments as well being submitted by Members as we have seen on both legislation large and small.

As the demands of the office continue to increase, it is vital we provide the attorneys with the support they need to do their jobs effectively. That certainly includes both increasing the resources, but also it requires ensuring the office engages in succession planning, as you said, to ensure continuity of Government.

While this may seem like a sort of a pedestrian matter, it is actually a big deal in my view in terms of ensuring that Congress does the job it needs to for the American people.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the current Deputy Legislative Counsel, Noah Wofsy. He and his team do a masterful job working closely with Members and staff on the Committee, and on this Committee in particular, and we would quite literally not be able to have this or any other markup without both his talents, dedication, and patience, and also Legislative Counsel Wade Ballou and the entire team in the Office of Legislative Counsel for the work they do.

We are very, very grateful for their service. The American people do not know their names but benefit from them every day. I am anxious to be able to be in support of this measure.

With that, I yield back.

Chairman STEIL. The clerk will please report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 9—

Chairman STEIL. Without objection, the first reading of the bill is dispensed with. Also, without objection, the bill should be considered read and open to amendment at any point.

[House bill H.R. 9487 follows:]

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 to authorize the Legislative Counsel of the House of Representatives to designate more than one of the attorneys of the Office of the Legislative Counsel as a Deputy Legislative Counsel, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. STEIL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 to authorize the Legislative Counsel of the House of Representatives to designate more than one of the attorneys of the Office of the Legislative Counsel as a Deputy Legislative Counsel, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “House Office of Legis-  
5 lative Counsel Modernization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF MULTIPLE DEPUTY LEGISLATIVE**  
2 **COUNSELS.**

3 (a) DESIGNATION.—Section 522(b)(1) of the Legisla-  
4 tive Reorganization Act of 1970 (2 U.S.C. 282a(b)(1)) is  
5 amended—

6 (1) by amending the first sentence to read as  
7 follows: “The Legislative Counsel shall designate one  
8 or more of the attorneys appointed under subsection  
9 (a) as a Deputy Legislative Counsel.”; and

10 (2) in the second sentence, by striking “the  
11 Deputy Legislative Counsel shall perform the func-  
12 tions of the Legislative Counsel.” and inserting “the  
13 functions of the Legislative Counsel shall be per-  
14 formed by a Deputy Legislative Counsel. If there is  
15 more than one Deputy Legislative Counsel, the Dep-  
16 uty Legislative Counsel who shall perform such func-  
17 tions shall be determined in accordance with the  
18 order specified in a notice filed with the Speaker and  
19 the Minority Leader of the House by the Legislative  
20 Counsel.”.

21 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 522(b)(2)  
22 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 282a(b)(2)) is amended by striking  
23 “Deputy Legislative Counsel” and inserting “Deputy Leg-  
24 islative Counsels”.

Chairman STEIL. Does any Member seek recognition for amendments or debate?

Seeing none, there being no further amendments, without objection, we will consider the question to report the measure at the end of the markup.

I now call up H.R. 6242, the VOTES Act of 2023. I will recognize the Ranking Member, Mr. Morelle, if he would like to give a statement on the bill.

Mr. MORELLE. Just briefly.

Again, I am really grateful for the opportunity to have this in front of us and to speak in support of the VOTES Act bill. It is an important bill, championed by my friend and colleague Maxwell Frost of Florida as well as a number of Members on this Committee. I cosponsored it, but I know Ms. Lee is a lead sponsor of the bill, and I want to thank her for her leadership and her efforts on that as well. I believe Mr. Kilmer is a cosponsor as well.

It is a common-sense update to the UOCAVA to ensure that our overseas servicemembers can participate in our democracy. It is essential that we guarantee every American, we have talked about that at length today, no matter our opinion, we believe every member of our Armed Forces should be able to cast a ballot.

Those ballots—we are 10 days from the deadline for States to send out those ballots to our men and women in uniform, and this deadline is a meaningful reminder of our duty as Members to protect the right of all servicemembers.

I am grateful for the bill being before the House. Thank you. Thank your staff. Thank Ms. Lee. Thank Mr. Kilmer and Mr. Frost for their leadership on this.

With that, I yield back.

Chairman STEIL. The gentleman yields back.

The clerk will please report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 6242—

Chairman STEIL. Without objection, the first reading of the bill is dispensed with. Also, without objection, the bill should be considered as read and open to amendment at any point.

[House bill H.R. 6242 follows:]

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6242

To amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to expand coverage of the definition of absent uniformed services voter, under such Act.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Mr. FROST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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## A BILL

To amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to expand coverage of the definition of absent uniformed services voter, under such Act.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Voting Overseas Treat-  
5 ed Equally for Servicemembers Act of 2023” or the  
6 “VOTES Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF THE COVERAGE OF THE DEFINITION**  
2 **OF ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER**  
3 **UNDER THE UNIFORMED AND OVERSEAS**  
4 **CITIZENS ABSENTEE VOTING ACT.**

5 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 107 of the Uniformed and  
6 Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20310)  
7 is amended—

8 (1) in subparagraph (1)(A) by striking “on active  
9 duty” and inserting “on active duty, active service,  
10 or inactive duty-training as defined, respectively,  
11 by section 101(d) of title 10, United States Code,”;

12 (2) in subparagraph (1)(A) by striking “such  
13 active duty” and inserting “such duty status”;

14 (3) in subparagraph (1)(C) by striking “active  
15 duty or service” and inserting “active duty, active  
16 service, or inactive duty-training”; and

17 (4) in subparagraph (5)(A) by striking “active  
18 duty or service” and inserting “active duty, active  
19 service, or inactive duty-training as defined, respectively,  
20 by section 101(d) of title 10, United States  
21 Code,”.

22 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by  
23 this section shall apply to elections occurring after Janu-  
24 ary 1, 2025.

○

Chairman STEIL. Does any Member seek recognition?

Ms. Lee is recognized.

Ms. LEE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to thank my Florida colleague, Congressman Maxwell Frost, for introducing this important bill, which I am proud to cosponsor.

This bill amends the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, otherwise known as UOCAVA, which is how that we ensure that our servicemembers overseas have their right to vote protected and facilitated.

This bill expands UOCAVA provisions to ensure that we include men and women who are serving in our National Guard or in an inactive service status so that they, too, are covered by UOCAVA.

With that, I encourage the Members of the Committee to support this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman STEIL. The gentlewoman yields back.

Does any other Member seek recognition?

There being no further amendments, without objection, we will consider the question and report the measure at the end of the markup.

There being no further amendments or debate, the question now occurs on ordering 6394, 6969, 9489, 9487, and 6242 reported favorably to the House.

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it and the motion report is agreed to.

A majority having voted in favor of H.R. 6394, H.R. 6969, H.R. 9489, H.R. 9487, and H.R. 6242, the bills are ordered favorably reported to the House. Without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

This concludes the order of business for today's markup. Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 2(1), I ask that the Committee Members have the right to file with the clerk of the Committee supplemental additional minority and dissenting views on each of the items marked up today.

Without objection.

Also, without objection, the staff is authorized to make necessary technical and conforming changes.

If there is no further business, I thank the Members for their participation.

Without objection, the Committee on House Administration stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:46 a.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

