

EWING, HORN, QUINN, EHLERS, BASS, PEASE, SWEENEY, OBERSTAR, RAHALL, LIPINSKI, DEFazio, COSTELLO, Ms. DANNER, Ms. E.B. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, and Mr. BOSWELL.

From the Committee on the Budget, for consideration of titles IX and X of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. CHAMBLISS, SHAYS and SPRATT.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of title XI of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. NUSSLE, HULSHOF, and RANGEL.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, House Resolution 276 is laid on the table.

There was no objection.

□ 0000

AUTHORIZING ARCHITECT OF CAPITOL TO PERMIT TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER WORK ON CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 167) authorizing the Architect of the Capitol to permit temporary construction and other work on the Capitol Grounds that may be necessary for construction of a building on Constitution Avenue Northwest between 2nd Street Northwest and Louisiana Avenue Northwest, with Senate amendments thereto, and concur in the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read the Senate amendments, as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 1, strike out all after line 3 over to and including line 7 on page 2 and insert:

The Architect of the Capitol may permit temporary construction and other work on the Capitol Grounds as follows:

(1) *As may be necessary for the demolition of the existing building of the Carpenters and Joiners of America and the construction of a new building of the Carpenters and Joiners of America on Constitution Avenue Northwest between 2nd Street Northwest and Louisiana Avenue Northwest in a manner consistent with the terms of this resolution. Such work may include activities resulting in temporary obstruction of the curbside parking lane on Louisiana Avenue Northwest between Constitution Avenue Northwest and 1st Street Northwest, adjacent to the side of the existing building of the Carpenters and Joiners of America on Louisiana Avenue Northwest. Such obstruction—*

(A) *shall be consistent with the terms of paragraphs (2) and (3);*

(B) *shall not extend in width more than 8 feet from the curb adjacent to the existing building of the Carpenters and Joiners of America; and*

(C) *shall extend in length along the curb of Louisiana Avenue Northwest adjacent to the existing building of the Carpenters and Joiners of America, from a point 56 feet from the intersection of the curbs of Constitution Avenue Northwest and Louisiana Avenue Northwest adjacent to the existing building of the Carpenters and Joiners of America to a point 40 feet from the intersection of the curbs of the Louisiana Avenue Northwest and 1st Street Northwest adja-*

cent to the existing building of the Carpenters and Joiners of America.

(2) *Such construction shall include a covered walkway for pedestrian access, including access for disabled individuals, on Constitution Avenue Northwest between 2nd Street Northwest and Louisiana Avenue Northwest, to be constructed within the existing sidewalk area on Constitution Avenue Northwest adjacent to the existing building of the Carpenters and Joiners of America, to be constructed in accordance with specifications approved by the Architect of the Capitol.*

(3) *Such construction shall ensure access to any existing fire hydrants by keeping clear a minimum radius of 3 feet around any fire hydrants, or according to health and safety requirements as approved by the Architect of the Capitol.*

Page 3, after line 4, insert:

(c) *No construction shall extend into the United States Capitol Grounds except as otherwise provided in section 1.*

Mr. SHUSTER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate amendments be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 167, as amended, would allow the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners to commence the demolition of its headquarters building, located at 101 Constitution Avenue, by authorizing the Architect of the Capitol to permit the temporary closure of sidewalks and curbside parking along the front of the current structure.

The House considered this resolution Tuesday, and the other body more narrowly defined the conditions for these closures, as well as conditions for the continued services and access in the immediate vicinity of the construction site.

I support the measure and urge the House to accept these changes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the several pieces of legislation just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 664

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 664.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT OF 1998 AMENDMENTS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S.1546) to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to provide additional administrative authorities to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and to make technical corrections to the Act, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 1546

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

SECTION 1. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION.—Section 201 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “The” and inserting “(1) IN GENERAL.—The”;

(2) by inserting after the first sentence the following new sentences: “The term of each member of the Commission appointed to the first two-year term of the Commission shall be considered to have begun on May 15, 1999, and shall end on May 14, 2001, regardless of the date of appointment to the Commission. The term of each member of the Commission appointed to the second two-year term of the Commission shall begin on May 15, 2001, and shall end on May 14, 2003, regardless of the date of appointment to the Commission. In the case in which a vacancy in the membership of the Commission is filled during a two-year term of the Commission, such membership on the Commission shall terminate at the end of that two-year term of the Commission.”; and

(3) by amending subsection (h) to read as follows:

“(h) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission on a reimbursable basis (or, in the discretion of the Administrator, on a non-reimbursable basis) such administrative support services as the Commission may request to carry out the provisions of this title.”.

(b) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking section 202(f);

(2) by redesignating sections 203, 204, 205, and 206 as sections 205, 206, 207, and 209, respectively;

(3) by inserting after section 202 the following:

“SEC. 203. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.

“(a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out its duties under this title, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places in the United States, take testimony and receive evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out the purposes of this Act.

“(b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such

information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission, subject to applicable law.

“(c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

“(d) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.—The Commission may adopt such rules and regulations, relating to administrative procedure, as may be reasonably necessary to enable it to carry out the provisions of this title.

“(e) VIEWS OF THE COMMISSION.—The Members of the Commission may speak in their capacity as private citizens. Statements on behalf of the Commission shall be issued in writing over the names of the Members. The Commission shall in its written statements clearly describe its statutory authority, distinguishing that authority from that of appointed or elected officials of the United States Government. Oral statements, where practicable, shall include a similar description.

“(f) TRAVEL.—The Members of the Commission may, with the approval of the Commission, conduct such travel as is necessary to carry out the purpose of this title. Each trip must be approved by a majority of the Commission. This provision shall not apply to the Ambassador-at-Large, whose travel shall not require approval by the Commission.

“SEC. 204. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an Executive Director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties. The decision to employ or terminate an Executive Director shall be made by an affirmative vote of at least six of the nine members of the Commission.

“(b) COMPENSATION.—The Commission may fix the compensation of the Executive Director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the Executive Director and other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

“(c) PROFESSIONAL STAFF.—The Commission and the Executive Director shall hire Commission staff on the basis of professional and nonpartisan qualifications. Commissioners may not individually hire staff of the Commission. Staff shall serve the Commission as a whole and may not be assigned to the particular service of a single Commissioner or a specified group of Commissioners. This subsection does not prohibit staff personnel from assisting individual members of the Commission with particular needs related to their duties.

“(d) STAFF AND SERVICES OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

“(1) DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—The Secretary of State shall assist the Commission by providing on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis to the Commission such staff and administrative services as may be necessary and appropriate to perform its functions.

“(2) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal department or agency may detail, on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of that department or

agency to the Commission to assist it in carrying out its functions under this title. The detail of any such personnel shall be without interruption or loss of civil service or Foreign Service status or privilege.

“(e) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—The Executive Director shall be required to obtain a security clearance. The Executive Director may request, on a needs-only basis and in order to perform the duties of the Commission, that other personnel of the Commission be required to obtain a security clearance. The level of clearance shall be the lowest necessary to appropriately perform the duties of the Commission.

“(f) COST.—The Commission shall reimburse all appropriate Government agencies for the cost of obtaining clearances for members of the commission, for the executive director, and for any other personnel.”;

(4) in section 207(a) (as redesignated by this Act), by striking all that follows “3,000,000” and inserting “to carry out the provisions of this title.”; and

(5) by inserting after section 207 (as redesignated) the following:

“SEC. 208. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND DISCLOSURE.

“(a) COOPERATION WITH NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND CONGRESS.—The Commission shall seek to effectively and freely cooperate with all entities engaged in the promotion of religious freedom abroad, governmental and nongovernmental, in the performance of the Commission's duties under this title.

“(b) CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND ANTINEPOTISM.—

“(1) MEMBER AFFILIATIONS.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), in order to ensure the independence and integrity of the Commission, the Commission may not compensate any nongovernmental agency, project, or person related to or affiliated with any member of the Commission, whether in that member's direct employ or not. Staff employed by the Commission may not serve in the employ of any nongovernmental agency, project, or person related to or affiliated with any member of the Commission while employed by the Commission.

“(2) STAFF COMPENSATION.—Staff of the Commission may not receive compensation from any other source for work performed in carrying out the duties of the Commission while employed by the Commission.

“(3) EXCEPTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), paragraph (1) shall not apply to payments made for items such as conference fees or the purchase of periodicals or other similar expenses, if such payments would not cause the aggregate value paid to any agency, project, or person for a fiscal year to exceed \$250.

“(B) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the Commission shall not give special preference to any agency, project, or person related to or affiliated with any member of the Commission.

“(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the term “affiliated” means the relationship between a member of the Commission and—

“(A) an individual who holds the position of officer, trustee, partner, director, or employee of an agency, project, or person of which that member, or relative of that member, of the Commission is an officer, trustee, partner, director, or employee; or

“(B) a nongovernmental agency or project of which that member, or a relative of that member, of the Commission is an officer, trustee, partner, director, or employee.

“(c) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Commission may contract with and compensate Government agencies or persons for the conduct of

activities necessary to the discharge of its functions under this title. Any such person shall be hired without interruption or loss of civil service or Foreign Service status or privilege. The Commission may not procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, or under other contracting authority other than that allowed under this title.

“(2) EXPERT STUDY.—In the case of a study requested under section 605 of this Act, the Commission may, subject to the availability of appropriations, contract with experts and shall provide the funds for such a study. The Commission shall not be required to provide the funds for that part of the study conducted by the Comptroller General of the United States.

“(d) GIFTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to preserve its independence, the Commission may not accept, use, or dispose of gifts or donations of services or property. An individual Commissioner or employee of the Commission may not, in his or her capacity as a Commissioner or employee, knowingly accept, use or dispose of gifts or donations of services or property, unless he or she in good faith believes such gifts or donations to have a value of less than \$50 and a cumulative value during a calendar year of less than \$100.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—This subsection shall not apply to the following:

“(A) Gifts provided on the basis of a personal friendship with a Commissioner or employee, unless the Commissioner or employee has reason to believe that the gift was provided because of the Commissioner's position and not because of the personal friendship.

“(B) Gifts provided on the basis of a family relationship.

“(C) The acceptance of training, invitations to attend or participate in conferences or such other events as are related to the conduct of the duties of the Commission, or food or refreshment associated with such activities.

“(D) Items of nominal value or gifts of estimated value of \$10 or less.

“(E) De minimis gifts provided by a foreign leader or state, not exceeding a value of \$260. Gifts believed by Commissioners to be in excess of \$260, but which would create offense or embarrassment to the United States Government if refused, shall be accepted and turned over to the United States Government in accordance with the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act of 1966 and the rules and regulations governing such gifts provided to Members of Congress.

“(F) Informational materials such as documents, books, videotapes, periodicals, or other forms of communications.

“(G) Goods or services provided by any agency or component of the Government of the United States, including any commission established under the authority of such Government.

“(e) ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT.—In addition to providing the reports required under section 202, the Commission shall provide, each year no later than January 1, to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and to the Committees on Foreign Relations and Appropriations of the Senate, a financial report detailing and identifying its expenditures for the preceding fiscal year.”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) (as redesignated) is amended by striking “4 years after the initial appointment of all the Commissioners” and inserting “on May 14, 2003.”.

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) **PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.**—Section 402(c) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the text above subparagraph (A), by striking “and (4)” and inserting “(4), and (5)”; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by inserting “UNDER THIS ACT” after “EXCEPTION FOR ONGOING PRESIDENTIAL ACTION”;

(B) by inserting “and” at the end of subparagraph (B);

(C) by striking at the end of subparagraph (C) “; and” and inserting a period; and

(D) in subparagraph (D), by striking “(D) at” and inserting “(5) EXCEPTION FOR ONGOING, MULTIPLE, BROAD-BASED SANCTIONS IN RESPONSE TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.—At”.

(b) **CLERICAL CORRECTION.**—Section 201(b)(1)(B)(iii) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(b)(1)(B)(iii)) is amended by striking “three” and inserting “Three”.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1546.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to provide administrative authorities to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

The Senate has just passed this bill by unanimous consent. I thank Senator NICKLES and Senator LIEBERMAN for their leadership and for the opportunity to work so closely with them on this bill as we did last year.

I also want to thank our distinguished majority and minority leaders and the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations for enabling us to consider this bill so quickly.

The Commission on International Religious Freedom was established by a bill we passed after nearly 2 years of hard work, the International Religious Freedom Act.

The Commission's task is to make policy recommendations for the U.S. Government to address religious persecution around the world.

We have already appropriated the money for the Commission. This bill provides technical corrections and the necessary authority and guidelines for the Commission to use the funds we appropriated for them.

This Commission is unique, perhaps in the world, and we know that it will come under great scrutiny. We want its independence, its mandate and its integrity to be clear to the world.

For this reason, this bill creates clear guidelines about such matters as contracting and gifts. These are not meant to be burdensome but to ensure the Commission's independence.

I am proud of this Commission. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each of the nine commissioners and the Ambassador at Large for Religious Freedom, who also sits on the Commission.

I look forward to a close and productive working relationship so that we may help men, women, and children of all faiths who suffer for their religious beliefs around the world.

So I urge my colleagues to support the bill and to give the Commission on

International Religious Freedom their full support and the authority the Commission needs to carry out its crucial work of promoting religious freedom around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD:

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to provide administrative authorities to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. The Senate has just passed this bill by unanimous consent, and I thank Senator NICKLES and LIEBERMAN for their leadership and for the opportunity to work so closely with them on this bill, as we did last year. I also thank our distinguished Majority and Minority leaders, and the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the International Relations Committee for enabling this bill to be considered so quickly.

I want to thank the experts of the Congressional Research Service who were so helpful as we sought to create a responsible, good structure for this Commission: Morton Rosenberg, Harold Relyea and Jack Maskell. Art Rynearson for the Senate Legislative Counsel, once again, provided gracious and expert service under a tight deadline.

This bill provides technical corrections and the necessary authority for the Commission to use the funds we appropriated for them. I am proud of this Commission. It was established by the International Religious Freedom Act, which took us nearly 2 years of hard work to pass, and we have great hopes for the work of these Commissioners.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each of the nine Commissioners and the Ambassador at Large for Religious Freedom, who also sits on the Commission. I would also like to congratulate Rabbi David Saperstein, of the Religious Action Center, and Mike Young, Dean of the George Washington Law School, on their election as chair and co-chair of the Commission. They and the other Commissioners have already worked hard, and we hope this amendment will help them with the important task we have asked them to fulfill. I look forward to a close and productive working relationship so that we may help men, women and children of all faiths who suffer for their religious beliefs around the world.

The Commission is tasked with examining the difficult facts of religious persecution around the world and recommending policies for the US policy to address that persecution.

The Commission is unique, perhaps, in the world, and we know that it will come under great scrutiny. We want its independence, its mandate and its integrity to be clear to the world. For this reason, this bill creates clear guidelines about such matters as contracting and gifts. These are not meant to be burdensome, but to ensure the Commission's independence.

So I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to give the Commission on

International Religious Freedom their full support and the authority the Commission needs to carry out its crucial work of promoting religious freedom around the world.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CLEMENT. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for pursuing the implementation of the Commission and providing them with the resources to continue their well-founded work that we adopted in the Committee on International Relations.

I thank the gentleman for his efforts.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1568) to provide technical, financial, and procurement assistance to veteran owned small businesses, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate Amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Findings.

Sec. 102. Purpose.

Sec. 103. Definitions.

TITLE II—VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 201. Veterans business development in the Small Business Administration.

Sec. 202. National Veterans Business Development Corporation.

Sec. 203. Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs.

TITLE III—TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Sec. 301. SCORE program.

Sec. 302. Entrepreneurial assistance.

Sec. 303. Business development and management assistance for military reservists' small businesses.

TITLE IV—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Sec. 401. General business loan program.

Sec. 402. Assistance to active duty military reservists.

Sec. 403. Microloan program.

Sec. 404. Defense Economic Transition Loan Program.

Sec. 405. State development company program.

TITLE V—PROCUREMENT ASSISTANCE

Sec. 501. Subcontracting.

Sec. 502. Participation in Federal procurement.

TITLE VI—REPORTS AND DATA COLLECTION

Sec. 601. Reporting requirements.