

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2565) was passed.

“THOMAS S. FOLEY FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE”

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 249, H.R. 211.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 211) to designate the Federal building and the United States courthouse located at West 920 Riverside Avenue in Spokane, Washington, as the “Thomas S. Foley Federal Building and United States Courthouse” and the plaza at the south entrance of such building and courthouse as the “Walter F. Horan Plaza.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to lay upon the table be agreed to, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 211) was read the third time and passed.

AUTHORITIES TO THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1546, introduced earlier today by Senators NICKLES, LIEBERMAN and HAGEL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A 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 that act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1546) was read the third time and passed, 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.”;

* * * * *

* * * 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 an 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 Codes, 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 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 government 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”.

APPRECIATION OF CONGRESS FOR THE SERVICE OF THE U.S. ARMY PERSONNEL WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN AN ANTIDRUG MISSION IN COLOMBIA

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consider-

ation of S. Res. 176, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 176) expressing the appreciation of the Congress for the service of United States Army personnel who lost their lives in the service of this country in the antidrug mission in Colombia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 176) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 176

Whereas Colombia is the largest source of cocaine and heroin entering the United States and efforts to assist that country combat the production and trafficking of illicit narcotics is in the national security interests of the United States;

Whereas operations by the United States Armed Forces to assist in the detection and monitoring of illicit production and trafficking of illicit narcotics are important to the security and well-being of all of the people of the United States;

Whereas on July 23, 1999, five United States Army personnel, assigned to the 204th Military Intelligence Battalion at Fort Bliss, Texas, and two Colombia military officials, were killed in a crash during an airborne reconnaissance mission over the mountainous Putumayo province of Colombia; and

Whereas the United States Army has identified Captain José A. Santiago, Captain Jennifer J. Odem, Chief Warrant Officer, W-2, Thomas G. Moore, Private First Class T. Bruce Cluff, and Private First Class Ray E. Krueger as the United States personnel killed in the crash while performing their duty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Senate—

(1) expresses its profound appreciation for the service of Captain José A. Santiago, Captain Jennifer J. Odem, Chief Warrant Officer, W-2, Thomas G. Moore, Private First Class T. Bruce Cluff, and Private First Class Ray E. Krueger, all of the United States Army, who lost their lives in service of their country during an antidrug mission in Colombia;

(2) expresses its sincere sympathy to the families and loved ones of the United States and Colombian personnel killed during that mission;

(3) urges United States and Colombian officials to take all practicable measures to recover the remains of the victims and to fully inform the family members of the circumstances of the accident which cost their lives;

(4) expresses its gratitude to all members of the United States Armed Forces who fight the scourge of illegal drugs and protect the security and well-being of all people of the United States through their detection and monitoring of illicit production and trafficking of illicit narcotics; and

(5) directs that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the family members of Captain José A. Santiago, Captain Jennifer J.