

Guard in south Florida coordinates integrated plans aimed at hurricane safety, recreational boater safety, and, most important, protection of our coastline from terrorism and drug trafficking.

H.R. 2443 was reported out of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure by a voice vote. This is very good legislation, it is essential to our continued commitment to the security and safety of all citizens and residents of the United States, and we have brought it forth, Mr. Speaker, under a fair and, in fact, open rule.

I would like to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), for their important work on this legislation; and I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), for yielding me this time; and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule and the underlying legislation. I believe I speak for every Member of this side of the aisle when I say that I appreciate the efforts of the majority to bring this bill to the floor today under an open rule and in a bipartisan manner. I only wish that more bills of significant importance in this body and to the country were considered in a similar fashion. Today's rule is an open rule, and Members are permitted to offer germane amendments to the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act.

As my colleague previously mentioned, the underlying legislation authorizes \$7.1 billion in fiscal year 2004 for activities of the United States Coast Guard and \$18 million for the Federal Maritime Commission. The level of funding that the House is providing to the Coast Guard is a 4 percent increase over the amount that was appropriated for the agency under the Homeland Security Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2004. The bill also provides the Maritime Commission with an 11 percent increase over last year's funding.

In addition to funding these two important Federal agencies, this bill amends current law affecting the Coast Guard's requirement to fire warning shots, inspect foreign vessels, and collect user fees. The legislation increases the number of commissioned officers in the Coast Guard as well as the number of active duty officers. The bill also improves our ability to respond to oil spills by requiring that oil-carrying vessels develop oil spill response plans. And my goodness gracious is that too long overdue for our Nation and, indeed, the world?

Mr. Speaker, the Coast Guard is charged with the responsibility of pa-

trolling the 12,452 miles of coastline in the United States. Nearly 2,000 of these miles are located in Florida, in my district, as well as that of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), and the Speaker pro tempore's, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY), where the Coast Guard plays, as we so well know, an integral role in patrolling our shores and protecting our citizens. The increase in funding provided in the underlying legislation for this important branch of the United States Armed Services serves as a statement about the role of the Coast Guard in our global war on terrorism.

Reports have shown that America's ports remain susceptible to attack and infiltration by America's enemies. And it does not go insignificantly or symbolically mentioned that I, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), and the present Speaker pro tempore, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY), all three of us on the floor at this time, represent three major ports: Port Everglades, the Port of Palm Beach, and the Port of Miami. Those three ports alone handle more than 13.2 million tons of cargo. In all, well over 1.5 million shipping containers were processed by South Florida longshoremen during the last year.

Certainly these statistics highlight the pressing need to increase the number of customs agents working in America's ports, but they also suggest that the roles of the Coast Guard and the Federal Maritime Commission in protecting our ports are greater than ever.

Mr. Speaker, when Congress created the Department of Homeland Security, it not only reorganized the Federal Government, but it also recommitted itself to the security of America. The underlying legislation, which the House will consider later today, is an extension of that commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to support the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:45 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 4:45 p.m.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEREUTER) at 5 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1720, by the yeas and nays; Senate amendments to H.R. 1516, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3365, by the yeas and nays, and House Resolution 414, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining votes in this series will be 5-minute votes.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE FACILITIES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1720, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1720, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 417, nays 0, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 576]

YEAS—417

Abercrombie	Bono	Collins
Ackerman	Boozman	Conyers
Aderholt	Boswell	Cooper
Akin	Boucher	Costello
Alexander	Boyd	Cox
Allen	Bradley (NH)	Cramer
Andrews	Brady (PA)	Crane
Baca	Brady (TX)	Crenshaw
Bachus	Brown (OH)	Crowley
Baird	Brown (SC)	Cubin
Baker	Brown, Corrine	Culberson
Baldwin	Brown-Waite,	Cummings
Ballance	Ginny	Cunningham
Ballenger	Burgess	Davis (AL)
Barrett (SC)	Burns	Davis (CA)
Bartlett (MD)	Burr	Davis (FL)
Barton (TX)	Burton (IN)	Davis (IL)
Bass	Buyer	Davis (TN)
Beauprez	Calvert	Davis, Jo Ann
Becerra	Camp	Davis, Tom
Bereuter	Cannon	Deal (GA)
Berkley	Cantor	DeFazio
Berman	Capito	DeGette
Berry	Capps	Delahunt
Biggart	Capuano	DeLauro
Billirakis	Cardin	DeLay
Bishop (GA)	Cardoza	DeMint
Bishop (NY)	Carson (IN)	Deutsch
Bishop (UT)	Carson (OK)	Diaz-Balart, L.
Blackburn	Carter	Diaz-Balart, M.
Blumenauer	Chabot	Dicks
Blunt	Chocola	Dingell
Boehlert	Clay	Doggett
Boehner	Clyburn	Doolittle
Bonilla	Coble	Doyle
Bonner	Cole	Dreier

Duncan Kleczka Portman
 Dunn Kline Price (NC)
 Edwards Knollenberg Pryce (OH)
 Ehlers Kolbe Putnam
 Emanuel Kucinich Quinn
 Emerson LaHood Radanovich
 Engel Langevin Rahall
 English Lantos Ramstad
 Eshoo Larsen (WA) Rangel
 Etheridge Larson (CT) Regula
 Evans Latham Rehberg
 Everett LaTourette Renzi
 Farr Leach Reyes
 Fattah Lee Reynolds
 Feeney Levin Rogers (AL)
 Ferguson Lewis (CA) Rogers (KY)
 Filner Lewis (GA) Rogers (MI)
 Flake Lewis (KY) Rohrabacher
 Foley Linder Ros-Lehtinen
 Forbes Lipinski Ross
 Ford LoBiondo Rothman
 Fossella Lofgren Roybal-Allard
 Frank (MA) Lowey Royce
 Franks (AZ) Lucas (KY) Ruppersberger
 Frelinghuysen Lucas (OK) Rush
 Gallegly Lynch Ryan (OH)
 Garrett (NJ) Majette Ryan (WI)
 Gerlach Maloney Ryan (KS)
 Gibbons Manzullo Sabo
 Gilchrest Markey Sanchez, Linda
 Gillmor Marshall T.
 Gingrey Matheson Sanchez, Loretta
 Goode Matsui Sanders
 Goodlatte McCarthy (MO) Sandlin
 Gordon McCarthy (NY) Saxton
 Goss McCollum Schakowsky
 Granger McCotter Schiff
 Graves McCrery Schrock
 Green (WI) McDermott Scott (GA)
 Greenwood McGovern Scott (VA)
 Grijalva McHugh Sensenbrenner
 Gutknecht Serrano Sessions
 Hall McInnis Sessions
 Harman McIntyre Shadegg
 Harris McNulty Shaw
 Hart Meehan Shays
 Hastings (FL) Meek (FL) Sherman
 Hastings (WA) Meeks (NY) Sherwood
 Hayes Menendez Shimkus
 Hayworth Mica Shuster
 Hefley Michaud Simmons
 Hensarling Millender Simpson
 Hergert McDonald Skelton
 Hill Miller (FL) Slaughter
 Hinchey Miller (MI) Smith (MI)
 Hobson Miller, Gary Smith (NJ)
 Hoeffel Miller, George Smith (TX)
 Hoekstra Mollohan Smith (WA)
 Holden Moore Snyder
 Holt Moran (KS) Solis
 Honda Moran (VA) Souder
 Hooley (OR) Murphy Spratt
 Hostettler Murtha Stark
 Houghton Musgrave Stearns
 Hoyer Myrick Stenholm
 Hulshof Nadler Strickland
 Hunter Napolitano Sullivan
 Hyde Neal (MA) Sweeney
 Inslee Nethercutt Tancredo
 Isakson Neugebauer Tanner
 Israel Ney Tauscher
 Issa Northup Tauzin
 Istook Norwood Taylor (MS)
 Jackson (IL) Nunes Taylor (NC)
 Jackson-Lee Nussle Terry
 (TX) Oberstar Thomas
 Janklow Obey Thompson (CA)
 Jefferson Olver Thompson (MS)
 Jenkins Osborne Thornberry
 John Ose Tiahrt
 Johnson (CT) Otter Tiberi
 Johnson (IL) Owens Tierney
 Johnson, E. B. Oxley Toomey
 Johnson, Sam Pallone Towns
 Jones (NC) Pascrell Turner (OH)
 Jones (OH) Pastor Turner (TX)
 Kanjorski Paul Udall (CO)
 Kaptur Payne Udall (NM)
 Keller Pearce Upton
 Kelly Pelosi Van Hollen
 Kennedy (MN) Pence Velazquez
 Kennedy (RI) Peterson (MN) Vislosky
 Kildee Peterson (PA) Vitter
 Kilpatrick Petri Walden (OR)
 Kind Pickering Walsh
 King (IA) Pitts Wamp
 King (NY) Platts Waters
 Kingston Pomeroy Watson
 Kirk Porter Watt

Waxman Whitfield Wu
 Weiner Wicker Wynn
 Weldon (FL) Wilson (NM) Young (AK)
 Weldon (PA) Wilson (SC) Young (FL)
 Weller Wolf
 Waxler Woolsey

NOT VOTING—17

Bell Gephardt Miller (NC)
 Case Gonzalez Ortiz
 Castle Green (TX) Pomo
 Dooley (CA) Gutierrez Rodriguez
 Fletcher Hinojosa Stupak
 Frost Lampson

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BE-REUTER) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1725

Mr. RENZI changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So two-thirds having voted in favor thereof the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out construction projects for the purpose of improving, renovating, establishing, and updating patient care facilities at Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, to provide by law for the establishment and functions of the Office of Research Oversight in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BE-REUTER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the remainder of this series will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

NATIONAL CEMETERY EXPANSION ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and concurring in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 1516.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 1516, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 0, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 577]

YEAS—412

Abercrombie Baca Ballenger
 Ackerman Bachus Barrett (SC)
 Aderholt Baird Bartlett (MD)
 Alexander Baker Barton (TX)
 Allen Baldwin Bass
 Andrews Ballance Beauprez

Becerra Everett Leach
 Bereuter Fattah Lee
 Berkley Feeney Levin
 Berman Ferguson Lewis (CA)
 Berry Filner Lewis (GA)
 Biggert Flake Lewis (KY)
 Bilirakis Foley Linder
 Bishop (GA) Forbes Lipinski
 Bishop (NY) Ford LoBiondo
 Bishop (UT) Fossella Lofgren
 Blackburn Frank (MA) Lowey
 Blumenauer Franks (AZ) Lucas (KY)
 Blunt Frelinghuysen Lucas (OK)
 Boehlert Gallegly Lynch
 Boehner Garrett (NJ) Majette
 Bonilla Gerlach Maloney
 Bonner Gibbons Manzullo
 Bono Gilchrest Markey
 Boozman Gillmor Marshall
 Boswell Gingrey Matheson
 Boucher Goode Matsui
 Boyd Goodlatte McCarthy (MO)
 Brady (PA) Gordon McCarthy (NY)
 Brady (TX) Goss McCollum
 Brown (OH) Granger McCrery
 Brown (SC) Graves McDermott
 Brown, Corrine Green (WI) McGovern
 Brown-Waite, Greenwood McHugh
 Ginny Grijalva McInnis
 Burgess Gutknecht McIntyre
 Burns Hall McKeon
 Burr Harman McNulty
 Burton (IN) Harris Meehan
 Buyer Hart Meek (FL)
 Calvert Hastings (FL) Meeks (NY)
 Camp Hastings (WA) Menendez
 Cannon Hayes Mica
 Cantor Hayworth Michaud
 Capito Hefley Millender-
 Capps Hensarling McDonald
 Capuano Hergert Miller (FL)
 Cardin Hill Miller (MI)
 Cardoza Hinchey Miller, Gary
 Carson (IN) Hobson Miller, George
 Carson (OK) Hoeffel Mollohan
 Carter Hoekstra Moore
 Chabot Holden Moran (KS)
 Choccola Holt Moran (VA)
 Clay Honda Murphy
 Clyburn Hooley (OR) Murtha
 Coble Hostettler Musgrave
 Cole Houghton Myrick
 Collins Hoyer Nadler
 Conyers Hulshof Napolitano
 Cooper Hunter Neal (MA)
 Costello Hyde Nethercutt
 Cox Inslee Neugebauer
 Cramer Isakson Ney
 Crane Israel Northup
 Crenshaw Issa Norwood
 Crowley Istook Nunes
 Cubin Jackson (IL) Nussle
 Culberson Jackson-Lee Oberstar
 Cummings (TX) Obey
 Cunningham Janklow Olver
 Davis (AL) Jefferson Osborne
 Davis (CA) Jenkins Ose
 Davis (FL) John Otter
 Davis (IL) Johnson (CT) Owens
 Davis (TN) Johnson (IL) Oxley
 Davis, Jo Ann Johnson, E. B. Pallone
 Davis, Tom Johnson, Sam Pascrell
 Deal (GA) Jones (NC) Pastor
 DeFazio Jones (OH) Paul
 DeGette Kanjorski Payne
 Delahunt Kaptur Pelosi
 DeLauro Keller Pence
 DeLay Kelly Peterson (MN)
 DeMint Kennedy (MN) Peterson (PA)
 Deutsch Kennedy (RI) Petri
 Diaz-Balart, L. Kildee Pickering
 Diaz-Balart, M. Kilpatrick Pitts
 Dicks Kind Platts
 Dingell King (IA) Pombo
 Doggett King (NY) Pomeroy
 Doolittle Kingston Porter
 Doyle Kirk Portman
 Dreier Kleczka Price (NC)
 Duncan Kline Pryce (OH)
 Dunn Knollenberg Putnam
 Edwards Kolbe Quinn
 Ehlers Kucinich Radanovich
 Emanuel LaHood Rahall
 Emerson Langevin Ramstad
 Engel Lantos Rangel
 English Larsen (WA) Regula
 Eshoo Larson (CT) Rehberg
 Etheridge Latham Renzi
 Evans LaTourette Reyes