

practice a permanent authority of the Secret Service. H.R. 5938 amends title 18 to provide statutory protection of former Vice Presidents, their spouses and their children under the age of 16 for the initial 6 months after leaving office. The bill also provides the Secret Service with the authority to reevaluate the need for continued protection in 6-month increments.

The permanent authority granted by H.R. 5938 will improve the Secret Service's ability to prepare for the protection of Vice Presidents after they leave office. Preparation for such security takes time and can often overlap administrations. Permanent authority will allow for the development of long-term protection plans.

The upcoming change of administrations, not to mention the current threat level, makes permanent statutory authority for the Secret Service to provide such protections even more timely.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5938, the "Former Vice President Protection Act of 2008." I would like to thank the Chair of the Judiciary Committee, Congressman CONVERS, for introducing this bill and for providing leadership on this important issue.

The former vice presidents of the United States have brought to that office significant public service experience, including as members of Congress or state governors. Some came to their role as president of the Senate already familiar with the body, having served as U.S. Senators. Several vice presidents later returned to serve again in the Senate, among them former President Andrew Johnson. Two vice presidents, George Clinton and John C. Calhoun, held the office under two different presidents.

Of the fourteen vice presidents who fulfilled their ambition by achieving the presidency, eight succeeded to the office on the death of a president, and four of these were later elected president. Two vice presidents, Hannibal Hamlin and Henry Wallace, were dropped from the ticket after their first term, only to see their successors become president months after taking office, when the assassination of Abraham Lincoln made Andrew Johnson president and the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt raised Harry Truman to the presidency. Similarly, when Spiro Agnew resigned, he was replaced under the Twenty-fifth Amendment by Gerald R. Ford, who became president when Richard M. Nixon resigned less than a year later.

The vice-presidency was generally held by men of mature years, with most of them in their fifties or sixties when they took office. The youngest, John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky, was thirty-six at the beginning of his term. At seventy-two, Alben Barkley, another Kentuckian, was the oldest when his term began.

Because I recognize the importance of the vice-presidency and the pivotal role it plays in American politics, I believe that tribute, respect, honor, and protection should be afforded to the person, and the family, that has obtained this position. I am proud to support this legislation.

Specifically, Title 18 U.S.C. provides former Presidents and their spouses protection by the United States Secret Service after leaving office but provides no such protection for former Vice Presidents and their families. H.R. 5938, authorizes the United States Secret Service to protect the former Vice President of the United States, his/her spouse, and his/her children under the age of 17 for not more than six months after the Vice President leaves office. The bill would also allow protection to continue should circumstances warrant extension.

After the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901, Congress informally requested Secret Service presidential protection. A year later, the Secret Service assumed full-time responsibility for protection of the President. Today, the secret service, which is under the Department of Homeland Security, is tasked with protecting the President of the United States and spouse and children under 17 years old for up to ten years after serving in office. The Secret Service also provides protection for widow(er) of the President and it provides protection for foreign heads of state and accompanying spouse when they visit the United States.

To date, four presidents have been assassinated, and there have been approximately twelve other assassination attempts on U.S. presidents. Under current law, because of the prestige of the office of President, current and former Presidents are protected by the secret service. Former Vice Presidents have not received any protection from the secret service after the vice president's term in office had expired. This legislation would ensure that Vice Presidents get protection for as long as necessary. Thus, the legislation ensures the safety and well-being of the Vice-President, spouse, and children under 17 years of age. This bill recognizes the important role of the office of Vice President. It is a powerful role with important responsibilities. This bill makes an important statement regarding our appreciation, commitment, and respect to the second most powerful position in this, our great country.

I think this bill makes sense. It is reasonable in its scope and its terms. I am proud to support this bill and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 5938 and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5938.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT IMPROVEMENT ACT

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5593) to amend title 5, United States Code, to make technical amendments to certain provisions of title 5, United States Code,

enacted by the Congressional Review Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5593

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Congressional Review Act Improvement Act".

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT.

(a) GOVERNMENT PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—Section 801 of title 5, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR SUBMITTAL TO BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS OF RULES OTHERWISE PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.—Subsection (a)(1) is amended—

(A) by striking "each House of the Congress and to" in subparagraph (A);

(B) by striking "each House of", and inserting "on request" after "Congress", in subparagraph (B); and

(C) by striking subparagraph (C).

(2) LISTING IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF EACH RULE RECEIVED BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Subsection (e) is amended to read as follows:

"(e)(1) The Comptroller General shall submit to each House of Congress a weekly report containing a list of each rule received by the Comptroller General pursuant to subsection (a) since the last such report was submitted. The report shall include a notation for each such rule indicating whether or not the rule is a major rule.

"(2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall cause to be published in the Congressional Record, in that portion of the Record relating to the proceedings of the House of Representatives, each report received from the Comptroller General under paragraph (1) since the last such publication in the House portion of the Record and, for each rule listed in such report, a statement of referral by the Speaker to the committee or committees of the House with responsibility for review of that rule.

"(3) There shall be published in the Congressional Record, in that portion of the Record relating to the proceedings of the Senate, each report received from the Comptroller General under paragraph (1) since the last such publication in the Senate portion of the Record and, for each rule listed in such report, a statement of the referral, if any, to the committee or committees of the Senate with responsibility for review of that rule.".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 8 of such title is further amended—

(1) in section 801(a)(3)(A)(i), by striking "Congress" and inserting "Comptroller General";

(2) in section 801(a)(4), by striking "Congress" and inserting "the Comptroller General";

(3) in section 801(d)(2)(B), by striking "Congress" and inserting "the Comptroller General";

(4) in section 802(a), by striking "Congress" the first place it appears and inserting "the Comptroller General"; and

(5) in section 802(b)(2)(A), by striking "Congress" and inserting "Comptroller General".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 5593, the Congressional Review Act Improvement Act, would cut government waste by reducing duplicative paperwork and relieving some of the administrative burdens currently mandated by the Congressional Review Act, the congressional mechanism for reviewing agency rules.

The Congressional Review Act requires that all agencies promulgating a rule submit to both Houses of Congress and to the Comptroller General a report that contains a copy of the rule, a concise general statement describing the rule, and the proposed effective date of the rule. Thus, under current law, the same material is submitted to, housed in, and printed by four different governmental entities. This approach creates unnecessary burdens. For example, the House Parliamentarian has testified before the Subcommittee on Administration of the Judiciary Committee in three separate Congresses about the ever-increasing volume of executive branch communications under the Congressional Review Act and its overwhelming impact on the operations of the Parliamentarian's office.

This legislation would eliminate the requirement that agencies submit rules to each House of Congress if they are already printed in the Federal Register. Instead, the House and Senate would receive a weekly list of all rules from the Comptroller General. The House and Senate would then have that list printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD with a statement of referral for each rule.

The bill would still require agencies to submit rules and reports to each House of Congress that were not printed in the Federal Register, and Congress could still employ the procedures in the Congressional Review Act to disapprove agency rules.

H.R. 5593 was introduced by Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee Chair LINDA SANCHEZ, along with Judiciary Committee Chairman JOHN CONYERS. They were joined by Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and Subcommittee Ranking Member CHRIS CANNON as original cosponsors. This bill has bipartisan support, and makes a lot of sense. I would urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Review Act provides Congress with a vital tool to oversee how agencies exercise their legislative authority Congress delegates to them.

The act has a great deal of promise, but unfortunately is used too little. Republicans on the Judiciary Committee have worked long, hard, and in a bipartisan fashion to help identify ways in which we can prompt its better use. Today, we begin the process of improving the act with one of those measures. H.R. 5593 streamlines the act's processing requirements, lightening the burden on the House Parliamentarian's office.

This is a measure first proposed in the 106th Congress by our much loved, revered, and respected former chairman, the late Henry Hyde. It had bipartisan support then as it does today, Mr. Speaker.

I applaud the House's consideration of this bill, and I hope that its swift enactment is but the first of key improvements we can make so that the act is both more efficient and more effective.

I urge its adoption.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5593, the "Congressional Review Improvement Act." I am proud to join my colleagues in cosponsoring this timely legislation. I would like to thank my colleague, Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ, for introducing this bill, and for providing leadership on this important issue.

I support this bill. It eliminates waste by minimizing the production of paper that is required to be provided to Congress. It should reduce duplicative paperwork and eliminate waste. These reduction and minimization of waste standards provided by this bill should result in a substantial cost savings to the Federal Government. In times like we are in now, it is important that the Government cut costs. I support this bill. It is a first step in cutting needless and excessive costs.

The congressional review mechanism of agency rules, known as the Congressional Review Act, CRA, requires that all agencies promulgating a rule must submit a report to both Houses of Congress and to the GAO. According to the CRA, the report must contain a copy of the rule, a concise general statement describing the rule, and the proposed effective date of the rule. A rule cannot take effect if the report is not submitted. Each House must then send a copy of the report to the chairman and the ranking member of each jurisdictional committee. The promulgating agency must then submit to the GAO: (1) a complete copy of the cost-benefit analysis; (2) a description of the agency's actions; and (3) other relevant information required under any other act or executive order. This information must also be made available to each House.

H.R. 5593 amends the current law, to reduce paperwork. The primary purpose of the legislation is to ensure that the same material is not submitted, housed, and printed at four different Government entities. H.R. 5593 eliminates the requirement that agencies submit paper copies of their rules that are printed in the Federal Register to each House while continuing a referral of all rules printed in the Federal Register and the periodic indication of

those referrals in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Instead, both the House and Senate would receive a weekly list of rules from the GAO and then the House and Senate would put that list in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

This bill eliminates the excessive duplication and printing of rules. No longer are the rules housed at four Government agencies. Under this bill, the House would receive a weekly list of rules that would then be added to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This bill adds a commonsense approach to rulemaking, the printing, publication and dissemination of those rules. It is simple and the reforms that it brings should yield a substantial cost savings to the U.S. Treasury.

I am proud to support this bill because it eliminates duplicative and needless paperwork and should provide a cost savings. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge adoption of this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5593, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SALUTING THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF THE LATE BO DIDDLEY

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1251) saluting the life and music of the late Otha Ellas "Bo Diddley" Bates, guitar virtuoso and rock and roll pioneer, whose music continues to influence generations of musicians.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1251

Whereas Bo Diddley, a founder of the rock and roll genre, helped to reshape the sound of popular music worldwide by melding blues, Southern gospel, rhythm and blues, and African American culture into a new genre that continues to influence popular music to this day;

Whereas Bo Diddley was born as Otha Ellas Bates on December 30, 1928, in McComb, Mississippi, grew up on the South Side of Chicago, studied classical violin from the age of 7 through the age of 15, and, strongly influenced by the music of John Lee Hooker, started playing the guitar at the age of 12;

Whereas Otha Ellas Bates adopted "Bo Diddley" as his stage name while performing on the South Side of Chicago;

Whereas Bo Diddley reshaped the sound of popular music, recording such tracks as "Bo Diddley" and "I'm A Man", both becoming number 1 hits;

Whereas Bo Diddley's career spanned several decades, spawning hits such as "Who Do You Love", "Mona", "Crackin' Up", "Say, Man", and "Road Runner";

Whereas Bo Diddley and his famous "Bo Diddley beat" has influenced, and continues