

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 415, noes 0, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 918]

AYES—415

Abercrombie	Conaway	Heinrich
Ackerman	Connolly (VA)	Heller
Adler (NJ)	Conyers	Hensarling
Akin	Cooper	Herger
Alexander	Costa	Herseth Sandlin
Altmire	Costello	Higgins
Andrews	Courtney	Hill
Arcuri	Crenshaw	Himes
Austria	Crowley	Hinchey
Baca	Cuellar	Hinojosa
Bachmann	Culberson	Hirono
Bachus	Cummings	Hodes
Baird	Dahlkemper	Hoekstra
Baldwin	Davis (GA)	Holden
Bartlett	Davis (IL)	Holt
Barton (TX)	Davis (KY)	Honda
Bean	Davis (TN)	Hoyer
Becerra	DeFazio	Hunter
Berkley	DeGette	Inglis
Berman	Delahunt	Inslee
Berry	DeLauro	Israel
Biggert	Dent	Issa
Bilbray	Diaz-Balart, L.	Jackson (IL)
Bilirakis	Diaz-Balart, M.	Jackson-Lee
Bishop (GA)	Dicks	(TX)
Bishop (NY)	Dingell	Jenkins
Blackburn	Doggett	Johnson (GA)
Blumenauer	Donnelly (IN)	Johnson (IL)
Blunt	Doyle	Johnson, E. B.
Boccieri	Dreier	Johnson, Sam
Boehner	Driehaus	Jones
Bonner	Duncan	Jordan (OH)
Bono Mack	Edwards (MD)	Kagen
Boozman	Edwards (TX)	Kanjorski
Boren	Ehlers	Kaptur
Boswell	Ellison	Kennedy
Boucher	Ellsworth	Kildee
Boustany	Emerson	Kilpatrick (MI)
Boyd	Engel	Kilroy
Brady (PA)	Etheridge	Kind
Brady (TX)	Fallin	King (IA)
Braley (IA)	Farr	King (NY)
Bright	Fattah	Kingston
Broun (GA)	Filner	Kirk
Brown (SC)	Flake	Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Brown, Corrine	Fleming	Kissell
Brown-Waite,	Forbes	Klein (FL)
Ginny	Fortenberry	Kline (MN)
Buchanan	Foster	Kosmas
Burgess	Foxo	Kratovil
Burton (IN)	Frank (MA)	Kucinich
Butterfield	Franks (AZ)	Lamborn
Buyer	Frelinghuysen	Lance
Calvert	Fudge	Langevin
Camp	Gallely	Larsen (WA)
Campbell	Garrett (NJ)	Larson (CT)
Cao	Gerlach	Latham
Capito	Giffords	LaTourette
Capps	Gingrey (GA)	Latta
Cardoza	Gohmert	Lee (CA)
Carnahan	Goodlatte	Lee (NY)
Carney	Gordon (TN)	Levin
Carson (IN)	Granger	Lewis (CA)
Carter	Graves	Lewis (GA)
Cassidy	Grayson	Linder
Castle	Green, Al	Lipinski
Castor (FL)	Green, Gene	LoBiondo
Chaffetz	Griffith	Loeb sack
Chandler	Grijalva	Lofgren, Zoe
Childers	Guthrie	Lowe y
Chu	Gutierrez	Lucas
Clarke	Hall (NY)	Luetkemeyer
Clay	Hall (TX)	Lujan
Cleaver	Halvorson	Lummis
Clyburn	Hare	Lungren, Daniel
Coble	Harman	E.
Coffman (CO)	Harper	Lynch
Cohen	Hastings (FL)	Mack
Cole	Hastings (WA)	Maffei

Maloney	Perlmutter	Shimkus
Manzullo	Perriello	Shuler
Marchant	Peters	Shuster
Markey (CO)	Peterson	Simpson
Markey (MA)	Petri	Sires
Marshall	Pingree (ME)	Skelton
Massa	Pitts	Slaughter
Matheson	Platts	Smith (NE)
Matsui	Poe (TX)	Smith (NJ)
McCarthy (CA)	Polis (CO)	Smith (TX)
McCarthy (NY)	Pomeroy	Smith (WA)
McCaull	Posey	Snyder
McClintock	Price (GA)	Souder
McCollum	Price (NC)	Space
McCotter	Putnam	Spratt
McDermott	Quigley	Stark
McGovern	Rahall	Stearns
McHenry	Rangel	Stupak
McIntyre	Rehberg	Sullivan
McKeon	Reichert	Sutton
McMahon	Reyes	Tanner
McNerney	Richardson	Taylor
Meek (FL)	Rodriguez	Teague
Meeks (NY)	Roe (TN)	Terry
Mica	Rogers (AL)	Thompson (CA)
Michaud	Rogers (KY)	Thompson (MS)
Miller (FL)	Rogers (MI)	Thompson (PA)
Miller (MI)	Rohrabacher	Thornberry
Miller (NC)	Rooney	Tiahrt
Miller, Gary	Ros-Lehtinen	Tiberi
Miller, George	Roskam	Tierney
Minnick	Ross	Titus
Mitchell	Rothman (NJ)	Tonko
Mollohan	Roybal-Allard	Towns
Moore (KS)	Royce	Tsongas
Moore (WI)	Ruppersberger	Turner
Moran (KS)	Rush	Upton
Murphy (CT)	Ryan (OH)	Van Hollen
Murphy (NY)	Ryan (WI)	Velázquez
Murphy, Patrick	Salazar	Visclosky
Murtha	Sánchez, Linda	Walden
Myrick	T.	Walz
Nadler (NY)	Sanchez, Loretta	Wamp
Napolitano	Sarbanes	Wasserman
Neal (MA)	Scalise	Schultz
Neugebauer	Schakowsky	Waters
Nunes	Schauer	Watson
Nye	Schiff	Watt
Oberstar	Schmidt	Waxman
Obey	Schock	Weiner
Olson	Schrader	Welch
Olver	Schwartz	Westmoreland
Ortiz	Scott (GA)	Whitfield
Owens	Scott (VA)	Wilson (OH)
Pallone	Sensenbrenner	Wilson (SC)
Pascrell	Serrano	Wittman
Pastor (AZ)	Sessions	Wolf
Paul	Sestak	Woolsey
Paulsen	Shadegg	Wu
Payne	Shea-Porter	Yarmuth
Pence	Sherman	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—19

Aderholt	Deal (GA)	Moran (VA)
Barrett (SC)	Eshoo	Murphy, Tim
Barrow	Garamendi	Radanovich
Bishop (UT)	Gonzalez	Speier
Cantor	McMorris	Wexler
Capuano	Rodgers	Young (AK)
Davis (AL)	Melancon	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1314

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 914, 915, 916, 917, and 918 I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 914; “yea” on rollcall No. 915; “yea” on rollcall No. 916; “yea” on rollcall No. 917; and “aye” on rollcall No. 918.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 648

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed from H. Res. 648.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

□ 1315

REDUNDANCY ELIMINATION AND ENHANCED PERFORMANCE FOR PREPAREDNESS GRANTS ACT

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3980) to provide for identifying and eliminating redundant reporting requirements and developing meaningful performance metrics for homeland security preparedness grants, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3980

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 “Redundancy Elimination and Enhanced Performance for Preparedness Grants Act”.

SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION OF REPORTING REDUNDANCIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE METRICS FOR HOMELAND SECURITY PREPAREDNESS GRANT PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 2023. IDENTIFICATION OF REPORTING REDUNDANCIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE METRICS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, for grants under sections 2003 and 2004 and any other grants specified by the Administrator, submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress by not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Redundancy Elimination and Enhanced Performance for Preparedness Grants Act, and by October 1st every 2 years thereafter, that—

“(1) identifies redundant rules, regulations, and requirements for reporting by recipients of such grants, and includes a plan for eliminating such identified redundancies and requirements;

“(2) includes a plan for developing and improving the performance metrics required under section 2022(a)(4) for such grants; and

“(3) includes an assessment of each program under which such grants are awarded.

“(b) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—Each plan under subsection (a)—

“(1) shall be developed in coordination with State, local, tribal, and territorial governments; and

“(2) shall include a proposed timeline for actions to implement the plan.

“(c) PROGRAM ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Each program assessment under subsection (a)(3) shall include—

“(1) a brief summary of the program purposes, objectives, and performance goals, and of the key findings of the assessment;

“(2) an assessment of the quality of the program's performance metrics, and the extent to which necessary performance data are collected;

“(3) a summary of how the program's strengths and weaknesses are impeding or contributing to its failures or successes, including reasons for any substantial variation from the targeted level of performance of the program;

“(4) a description of the extent to which any trends, developments, or emerging conditions affect the need to change the mission of the program or the way that the program is being carried out;

“(5) an identification of the best practices used in the program for allocating resources in an efficient and effective manner that resulted in positive outcomes and the key reasons why such practices resulted in positive outcomes;

“(6) recommendations for program modifications to improve the results that the program achieves;

“(7) a summary of key results of the program assessment that support maximizing the amount of funds appropriated for the program; and

“(8) an assessment of the quality of customer service offered to recipients of funds under the program and a strategy for improving such service.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title XX the following new item: “Sec. 2023. Identification of reporting redundancies and development of performance metrics.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Congress instructed FEMA in the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 and in the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to develop performance metrics for its homeland security grants programs. As the House Committee on Homeland Security discovered in our October 27 subcommittee hearing I held with my ranking member hearing on emergency communications, these requirements

remain poorly implemented and difficult to comprehend. What is most disconcerting is that FEMA still cannot determine our Nation's overall preparedness or how homeland security grants have helped to protect our Nation from acts of terrorism.

It is for these reasons that I come to you today to ask for your support of H.R. 3980, the Redundancy Elimination and Enhancement Performance for Preparedness Grants Act. This legislation would require FEMA to work in conjunction with State, local, tribal and territorial stakeholders to develop a plan to do the following things:

Streamline homeland security grant reporting requirements, rules and regulations to eliminate redundant reporting;

Create a strategy including a timetable for establishing the much-needed performance metrics for grant programs to ensure that the funds are being directed to the areas where they will be best spent;

Require FEMA to take an inventory of each of the homeland security grant programs to include the purpose, objectives and performance goals for each.

The plan will be submitted to the appropriate congressional committees no later than 120 days after the bill's enactment.

It will be updated biannually to ensure that the committee is able to maintain a watchful eye and the oversight on redundancies in the law that might confuse the grant recipients at the local level.

This bill will help identify inefficiencies with the DHS grants programs and this bill will increase the quality of service received by DHS grant recipients.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, December 1, 2009.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I write to you regarding H.R. 3980, the “Redundancy Elimination and Enhanced Performance for Preparedness Grants Act”.

H.R. 3980 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, I agree to waive consideration of this bill with the mutual understanding that my decision to forgo a sequential referral of the bill does not waive, reduce, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over H.R. 3980.

Further, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 3980 or similar legislation.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in the Committee Report on H.R. 3980 and in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD consideration of the measure in the House.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, December 1, 2009.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3980, the “Redundancy Elimination and Enhanced Performance for Preparedness Grants Act,” introduced by Congressman HENRY CUELLAR on November 2, 2009.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I acknowledge that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has a jurisdictional interest in certain provisions of H.R. 3980. I appreciate your agreement to not seek a sequential referral of this legislation and I acknowledge that your decision to forgo a sequential referral does not waive, alter, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Further, I recognize that your Committee reserves the right to seek appointment of conferees on the bill for the portions of the bill over which your Committee has a jurisdictional interest and I agree to support such a request.

I will ensure that this exchange of letters is included in the legislative report on H.R. 3980 and in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of the bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3980, sponsored by my good friend from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) who I'm pleased to serve with on the Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response Subcommittee.

Since 2006, Congress has mandated FEMA to measure the Nation's level of preparedness, as well as the effectiveness of State and local homeland security grant programs administered by FEMA. Both the Post-Katrina Reform Act of 2006 and the 9/11 Act of 2007 require FEMA to develop metrics that can be used to identify and close gaps in preparedness with homeland security resources. These include the Comprehensive Assessment System, the Target Capabilities List, and the State Preparedness Report.

Unfortunately, the various preparedness metrics developed since 2006 have not been properly integrated by FEMA, resulting in duplicative reporting requirements that put an undue burden

on State and local governments. State and local homeland security grant programs are essential to achieving and maintaining preparedness capabilities, and they can be strengthened and improved with input from stakeholders and the establishment of sound performance metrics.

This bill seeks to improve the way grant programs are administered and managed by FEMA, and will ensure that Congress is informed of the ongoing planning at FEMA for improving measures of preparedness and eliminating duplicative requirements placed on grantees.

I urge my colleagues to support the measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as you heard, this is commonsense legislation that will streamline FEMA's efforts to enhance our Nation's preparedness and response capacity. All we're trying to do is to make sure that we get rid of any unnecessary rules and regulations that cause our local folks problems. Number two, we're also trying to make sure that we measure the results. If we're going to spend billions of dollars on grants, we've just got to make sure that we measure those particular results.

The bottom line is, Mr. Speaker, we're trying to focus on the customers, and the customers are the recipients of these grants. I certainly want to thank our ranking member, Mr. ROGERS. He's done an outstanding job there in the committee. I look forward to working with him not only on this legislation to make it law but certainly on other pieces of legislation. I urge all my colleagues to vote "aye."

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3980, the "Redundancy Elimination and Enhanced Performance for Preparedness Grants Act."

This legislation, introduced by Mr. CUELLAR, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response, requires FEMA to assess the performance of its homeland security grant program and work towards addressing any identified deficiencies.

The legislation was developed based on finding from an October subcommittee hearing where FEMA testified as to the status of the agency's efforts to establish performance measurements for preparedness grants.

At the hearing, we learned that that FEMA's efforts to implement statutory performance metrics-related requirements are fragmented and poorly integrated. As a result, FEMA is unable to measure how the \$29 billion in homeland security grants appropriated since 2002 have improved the nation's overall level of preparedness. Without these much needed performance metrics, FEMA continues to impose redundant grant reporting requirements on State and local governments including those in my home State of Mississippi.

Not only are these redundant reporting requirements costly and time-consuming for State and local officials to prepare, but there is significant evidence that, taken together,

they still do not provide FEMA with information necessary to measure the return on investment from federal grants.

Although there have been some improvements in FEMA's administration of homeland security grants, such as the improvements in grant guidance and technical assistance provided to State and local applicants, we still have a ways to go.

H.R. 3980 would complement these efforts by directing FEMA to work with State and local stakeholders to identify and eliminate these redundant grant reporting requirements.

Specifically, H.R. 3980 would eliminate much of the red-tape and improve the performance of FEMA grant programs. The bill requires FEMA to develop a strategy, with timelines, to establish performance metrics for its homeland security grants and provides direction to complete a program assessment of its homeland security grants. These steps are designed to improve the agency's performance, productivity and accountability to the taxpayers. It will also provide Congress with better information on FEMA's performance to allow us to conduct more effective oversight and ensure that taxpayer money is being used efficiently and effectively.

Again, thank you for the consideration of this important legislation.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3980, the Redundancy Elimination and Enhanced Performance for Preparedness Grants Act. This legislation directs FEMA to streamline its grants reporting process to make it more efficient and informative, and it eliminates redundant requests for information.

I would like to acknowledge Speaker PELOSI and Chairman THOMPSON for their leadership in bringing this important bill to the floor. I would also like to thank my colleague Congressman CUELLAR, who worked so hard authoring this important legislation holding FEMA accountable for our taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, on October 27, as a member of the Subcommittee on Emergency Communication, Preparedness, and Response, I heard testimony from both FEMA officials and state and local government officials about the new grants tracking program currently being tested. State and local officials, including the mayor of Los Angeles in my home state of California, urged the federal government to reconsider their use of this program. In the words of the mayor, "all the reports that it generates provide no guidance or value for assessing homeland security investments."

H.R. 3980 directs FEMA to identify and address the problems it is experiencing with grants reporting and tracking. This legislation is almost a direct response to the concerns raised to Congressman CUELLAR and me by the mayor of Los Angeles about the FEMA grants reporting process. I am proud that this legislation addresses those concerns. When it comes to homeland security and taxpayer dollars, we simply cannot afford to be wasting time or money on programs that offer no guidance or value. So I am pleased to champion H.R. 3980, which addresses this problem.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support this bill because it will make our grant process more efficient and informative. Redundant reporting requirements will be eliminated, and communities and organizations will be able to better focus on doing the work they need to do to keep our nation safe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3980.

Mr. CUELLAR. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3980, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ENHANCING SECURITY TO RAIL AND MASS TRANSIT LINES

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 28) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Transportation Security Administration should, in accordance with the congressional mandate provided for in the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, enhance security against terrorist attack and other security threats to our Nation's rail and mass transit lines, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 28

Whereas the Transportation Security Administration is uniquely positioned to lead the efforts to secure our Nation's rail and mass transit systems and other modes of surface transportation against terrorist attack as a result of expertise developed over six years of securing our Nation's commercial air transportation system;

Whereas the successes of the Transportation Security Administration's National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program has furthered the Transportation Security Administration's ability to secure our Nation's transportation systems against terrorist attack by preventing and protecting against explosives threats;

Whereas each weekday 11,300,000 passengers depend on our Nation's mass transit systems as a means of transportation;

Whereas rail and mass transit systems serve as an enticing target for terrorists and terrorist organizations, such as Al Qaeda, as evidenced by the March 11, 2004, attack on the Madrid, Spain, rail system, the July 7, 2005, attack on the London, England, mass transit system, and the July 11, 2006, and November 26, 2008, attacks on the Mumbai, India, rail system;

Whereas the Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act of 2009, which was passed by the House of Representatives on June 4, 2009, in an overwhelming and bipartisan manner, expresses Congress' commitment to bolstering the security of rail and mass transit systems; and

Whereas securing our Nation's rail and mass transit systems against terrorist attack and other security threats is essential due to their impact on our Nation's economic stability and the continued functioning of our national economy: Now, therefore, be it