

person, H.R. 2062 establishes a new two-tiered penalty system under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. For the first offense under this new standard, a defendant could receive up to 1 year in jail, a \$100,000 fine, or both. For subsequent convictions of the same type, the penalties could increase to 2 years in jail, fines of up to \$250,000, or both. These would be available, but not mandatory, penalties that a United States Attorney could seek in future migratory bird prosecutions.

Let me emphasize that this will not be the new legal standard for all violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. We are not talking about protected birds that are killed by a cell tower. We are not talking about hunters who kill too many ducks or geese. We are not talking about someone who steals goose eggs from a golf course. We are not talking about your grandmother who may shoot a protected woodpecker because its constant tapping on her house is annoying her. There is also absolutely no intention that these new penalties would affect in any manner the authorized hunting of migratory birds or the taking of migratory birds under a depredation order established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

These enhanced penalties in H.R. 2062 will send a clear message to individuals throughout this Nation that egregious behavior, like the roller pigeon cases, will not be tolerated in the future.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, just over 2 years ago, Fish and Wildlife Service arrested a dozen individuals for repeatedly and deliberately killing protected raptors under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In many cases, the individuals used cruel and shocking methods of torture, mutilation, poisoning, suffocation, and clubbing to kill and wound these birds. They then bragged about their egregious behavior on the internet and to members of their organizations.

Despite the horrific nature of the crimes, the defendants who pleaded guilty to the Class B Misdemeanor—the same penalty ascribed to unauthorized uses of the Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear characters—escaped with fines far smaller than the maximum allowances and were granted probation or given community service.

I and thousands of Oregonians were outraged by the nature of these wanton and senseless crimes. Yet, the individuals responsible only received a stiff slap on the wrist, demonstrating that courts often do not take wildlife crimes seriously enough. Regrettably, horrific violence against protected migratory birds continues across the country.

I introduced H.R. 2062 to provide Fish and Wildlife Service with a law enforcement tool that would allow the agency to prosecute the most egregious violations of the MBTA with serious penalties. This bill would also send a clear message to courts that Congress does take wildlife crimes seriously and expects courts to apply penalties that measure up to the shocking nature of some of these crimes.

The bill before the House today is the consensus product of over 6 months of discussion with conservation groups, hunting associations, Fish and Wildlife Service, the States, and the Republican minority. The bill was

passed unanimously by the House Committee on Natural Resources on November 18th. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2062, 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.

AUTHORIZATION OF A PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR GUAM

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3940) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to extend grants and other assistance to facilitate a political status public education program for the people of Guam, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3940

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

SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

Congress reaffirms that it is the responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior to advance the economic, social, and political development of the territories of the United States.

SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE FOR POLITICAL STATUS PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize appropriations for certain insular areas of the United States, and for other purposes”, approved December 24, 1980 (48 U.S.C. 1469d), is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) through (d) as subsections (c) through (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

“(b) The Secretary of the Interior may extend to the governments of American Samoa, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands, and their agencies and instrumentalities, assistance, including assistance in the form of grants, research, planning assistance, studies, and agreements with Federal agencies, to facilitate public education programs regarding political status options for their respective territories.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 19(a)(2)(C) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2028(a)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “section 601(c) of Public Law 96–597 (48 U.S.C. 1469d(c))” and inserting “section 601(d) of Public Law 96–597 (48 U.S.C. 1469d(d))”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3940 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assist the Governments of Guam, American Samoa, and the United States Virgin Islands in developing and implementing political status public education programs.

Such programs would aid the people of these territories in understanding the various and viable political status options available to them. With such information, they could, in turn, express informed opinions about their future in any political status plebiscite or convention.

Today, Guam, American Samoa, and the United States Virgin Islands are the three United States territories recognized by the international community as nonself-governing. The Federal Government is obligated to advance their self-government, taking into account the political aspirations of their peoples. The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for these efforts under U.S. law, and the resolution of status for these territories is a matter for Congress to ultimately resolve under article IV of the United States Constitution. Although efforts have been made in the past in each territory toward improving its status consistent with the right of self-determination, status remains ultimately unresolved for them.

In Guam, a local law has authorized a plebiscite to be held that is to involve a public education program. In American Samoa, the work of a locally established commission to assess status options, the third such commission in the history of the territory, was recently concluded. A plebiscite on status was also held previously in the Virgin Islands.

Each circumstance, however, demonstrates the importance of a public education program for resolving status in each territory and for preparing for future plebiscites or other processes by which their people can collectively express their political aspirations.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, simply clarifies in law that the Secretary of the Interior can exercise existing authority to provide general technical assistance to these territories for the purpose of facilitating political status public education.

So I ask my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3940 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to extend assistance to facilitate political

status public education programs for American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These territories may request grant funds from the Secretary to conduct public education programs to assist their electorate in understanding the political status options for each territory.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3940, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend Public Law 96-597 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to extend grants and other assistance to facilitate political status public education programs for the peoples of the non-self-governing territories of the United States."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RENAMING THE OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3603) to rename the Ocmulgee National Monument, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3603

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

SECTION 1. REDESIGNATION.

The Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon, Georgia, shall be known and redesignated as the "Ocmulgee Mounds National Monument".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Ocmulgee National Monument shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Ocmulgee Mounds National Monument".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which 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 Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3603 is sponsored by my friend and col-

league Representative MARSHALL of Georgia.

The bill is very simple. It changes the name of the Ocmulgee National Monument to the Ocmulgee Mounds National Monument.

The new name will more accurately portray the resources at the monument, which is located in Macon, Georgia, and which was established in 1934 to protect a collection of Native American mounds, including a large ceremonial center, that encompassed burial and residential mounds, a large earthen temple, and political meeting chambers.

H.R. 3603 has wide support in the community, and those supporters believe the name change will help the public better understand the nature of the monument and encourage increased visitation.

I urge all Members to support this bill.

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Democrat bill manager's adequately explained this bill. We have no objection to its consideration.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the sponsor of the bill, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL), for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. MARSHALL. I thank the gentlewoman from Guam.

I just want to add my 2 cents here. I am the sponsor of the bill. Locally, in the middle of Georgia area, when we refer to the Ocmulgee National Monument, almost everybody says the Mounds, we are going over to the Mounds. That's the most significant archaeological and physical aspect of this particular facility.

The facility is actually virtually in downtown Macon. It's right at the junction of two interstate highways. It's the most frequently visited monument, museum, et cetera, in middle Georgia. We believe, by adding the word "mounds" to the name, we will increase the visibility of the Mounds.

This site has had continuous human habitation for over 12,000 years. It may be the site, the longest site of continuous human habitation in North America. The Mounds were added circa 600 to 900, if I recall correctly, A.D., but the site is of historical significance that goes well beyond simply the Mounds.

We encourage the House to unanimously support this request.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3603, 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. BROWN of South Carolina. 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.

PRESERVING ORANGE COUNTY'S ROCKS AND SMALL ISLANDS

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 86) to eliminate an unused lighthouse reservation, provide management consistency by bringing the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 86

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

SECTION 1. PRESERVATION OF ROCKS AND SMALL ISLANDS ALONG THE COAST OF ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

(a) CALIFORNIA COASTAL NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The Act of February 18, 1931, entitled "An Act to reserve for public use rocks, pinnacles, reefs, and small islands along the seacoast of Orange County, California" is amended by striking "temporarily reserved" and all that follows through "United States" and inserting "part of the California Coastal National Monument and shall be administered as such".

(b) REPEAL OF RESERVATION.—Section 31 of the Act of May 28, 1935, entitled "An Act to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to dispose of certain lighthouse reservations, and for other purposes" is hereby repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which 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 Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 86, introduced by our colleague from California Representative CAMPBELL, would correct a situation in which two acts from the 1930s are inadvertently preventing certain rocks, pinnacles, reefs, small islands, and lighthouses off the coast of Orange County from being included in the California Coastal National Monument.