interested parties commented on the draft of H.R. 6602 before its consideration today. I am confident this bill will improve our legislative codification system, and I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 6602 makes revisions in title 36 to the United States Code that are necessary to keep the title current, as well as to make technical corrections and improvements. H.R. 6602 was prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel as part of its ongoing responsibility under 2 U.S.C., section 285b, to prepare and submit to the Committee on the Judiciary one title at a time a complete compilation, restatement, and revision of the general and permanent laws of the United States.

This legislation gathers provisions relating to patriotic and national observances and ceremonies, patriotic and national organizations, and treaty obligation organizations under the current title 36. The amendments strike the existing abbreviated table of contents of the title and insert a more comprehensive title-wide table of contents, update the format of the chapter headings of reserved chapters, and make other necessary technical corrections.

H.R. 6602 is not intended to make any substantive changes to the law. As is typical with the codification process, a number of nonsubstantive revisions are made, including the reorganization of sections into a more coherent overall structure, but these changes are not intended to have any substantive effect.

I am pleased again to have worked with Chairman LAMAR SMITH to draft this legislation, and I thank him for moving it to the House floor and urge my colleagues to support this measure.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on this side. 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. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6602.

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. CONYERS. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ELIMINATION OF A REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR UNFUNDED DNA IDENTIFICATION GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6605) to eliminate an unnecessary reporting requirement for an unfunded DNA Identification grant program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6605

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

SECTION 1. ELIMINATION OF REPORT REQUIREMENT.

Section 2406 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796kk–5) is repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 6605, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join the ranking member, Mr. CONYERS, in cosponsoring this commonsense, bipartisan bill which eliminates an unnecessary reporting requirement on the States from an unfunded Federal grant program.

Earlier this year, I cosponsored, with Mr. CONYERS, H.R. 6189, the Reporting Efficiency Improvement Act. In response to a specific request from the administration, H.R. 6189 eliminated two reports that the Department of Justice was required to prepare for grant programs that have not been funded by Congress for many years. One of these grant programs is the DNA Identification Act of 1994. On October 5, the President signed into law H.R. 6189.

H.R. 6605, the bill before the House today, does for the States what H.R. 6189 did for the Federal Government: It eliminates the statutory requirement for States to report to the Attorney General about grants from the DNA Identification Act of 1994. Because Congress has not funded this grant program in nearly a decade, this statutory reporting requirement is unnecessary.

I again thank Mr. CONYERS, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, for his initiative on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

To our colleagues, this measure before us now, H.R. 6605, is a noncontroversial bill that makes a single technical correction to the U.S. Code. Under the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010, the Department of Justice conducts an annual review of statutory reporting requirements that are outdated, duplicative, or otherwise no longer useful to Congress. After conducting that review, the Department recommended we eliminate two reports, both related to programs that have not received funding from Congress for the better part of a decade. Last September, with the support of Chairman LAMAR SMITH, Congress passed H.R. 6189, the Reporting Efficiency Improvement Act, to remove these two reporting requirements from the Federal code. President Obama signed H.R. 6189 into law on October 5 of this year.

The bill before us today makes a single technical correction to the Federal code in order to reflect the changes we made earlier this year. Specifically, the legislation eliminates a cross-reference to a report that, after the enactment of H.R. 6189, no longer exists. This bill is a housekeeping measure and nothing more.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on this side, and 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. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6605.

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.

□ 1030

CLARIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO ABSENCE FROM THE UNITED STATES DUE TO CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT BY CHIEF OF MISSION OR ARMED FORCES

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6223) to amend section 1059(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 to clarify that a period of employment abroad by the Chief of Mission or United States Armed Forces as a translator, interpreter, or in an executive level security position is to be counted as a period of residence and physical presence in the United States for purposes of qualifying for naturalization if at least a portion of such period was spent in Iraq or Afghanistan, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6223

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

SECTION 1. CLARIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO ABSENCE FROM THE UNITED STATES DUE TO CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT BY CHIEF OF MISSION OR ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1059(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(e) NATURALIZATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A period of absence from the United States described in paragraph (2)—

''(A) shall not be considered to break any period for which continuous residence or physical presence in the United States is required for naturalization under title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.); and

''(B) shall be treated as a period of residence and physical presence in the United States for purposes of satisfying the requirements for naturalization under such title.

''(2) PERIOD OF ABSENCE DESCRIBED.—A period of absence described in this paragraph is a period of absence from the United States due to a person's employment by the Chief of Mission or United States Armed Forces, under contract with the Chief of Mission or United States Armed Forces, or by a firm or corporation under contract with the Chief of Mission or United States Armed Forces, if—

''(A) such employment involved supporting the Chief of Mission or United States Armed Forces as a translator, interpreter, or in a security-related position in an executive or managerial capacity; and

''(B) the person spent at least a portion of the time outside the United States working directly with the Chief of Mission or United States Armed Forces as a translator, interpreter, or in a security-related position in an executive or managerial capacity.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of section 1059(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 6223, as amended, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and thank Representative DENT for introducing it.

Many men and women put their lives at risk to serve our nation with the Department of State in U.S. Embassies abroad. They contribute directly to the security of our country.

As we have become aware, conflicts from across the globe affect these employees in countries such as Tunisia, Syria, Egypt, Israel, and most recently, Libya. Our embassies have been attacked. Our flags have been burned. And our ambassador to Libya and three other Americans have been murdered.

Regrettably, service to the United States in our embassies abroad often occurs under dangerous conditions and in threatening environments.

The work of our foreign officers and agents assures us that we are kept safe each and every day. We are fortunate to have men and women willing to sacrifice and serve in the embassies. These individuals often accept posts on the front lines overseas as they serve to defend our freedoms. And for that we are grateful.

To ensure that our nation has the tools and resources it needs, such as linguistic expertise or knowledge of a specific geographic area, legal permanent residents serve the United States in critical capacities in some of the most vulnerable parts of the world.

Unfortunately, their loyalty, dedication and success can come at a price if they intend on naturalizing and becoming a United States citizen.

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, an applicant for naturalization must be a lawfully admitted permanent resident for at least five years, have continuous residence in the U.S. during that time and be physically present in the U.S. for at least half of that five year period.

Continuous residence is the time that the applicant has maintained official residence within the United States. Physical presence is the time the applicant has been actually and physically located in the United States.

A permanent resident may become ineligible to naturalize because they have not been ''physically present and residing in the United States, after being lawfully admitted for permanent residence, for an uninterrupted period of at least one year.''

Any departure from the United States prevents the establishment of ''an uninterrupted period of one year'' after lawful admission for permanent residence.

This means that a legal permanent resident who is serving in our embassies overseas cannot qualify for naturalization.

This bill resolves this issue. It allows legal permanent residents' time in embassies abroad to count towards both the ''continuous residence'' requirement and the ''physical presence'' requirement for naturalization.

This is a common sense change that brings certain national security professionals in our embassies abroad in line with their military counterparts. Military service members' time overseas currently counts towards physical presence.

Like their military colleagues, senior and managerial legal permanent residents who serve in embassies, regardless of duration, are now regarded as being legally physically present in the U.S. during the period they serve the Department of State.

Additionally, under current law, a person who provides translator or interpreter services to the U.S. Armed Forces or the Chief of Mission in Iraq or Afghanistan can count that period of absence from the United States toward the ''continuous residence.'' However, that time does not count towards the one year continuous physical presence requirement for naturalization.

This bill allows people who work in a security-related position in an executive or managerial capacity for the Armed Forces and Chief of Mission to benefit in the same way as people who work as interpreters or translators.

It also permits interpreters and translators who serve the Armed forces or Chief of Mission in places other than Iraq or Afghanistan to receive this benefit.

I again thank Mr. DENT for his work on this bill as it honors the legal permanent residents who serve our nation abroad and facilitates their path to citizenship. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I, again, just want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) for sponsoring this bill, and I yield him the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to rise in support of H.R. 6223, a bill I introduced earlier this year as well as in the 111th Congress.

I would especially like to thank Chairman LAMAR SMITH for his service as chairman of this committee for the past 2 years. He has been a great leader, and I will miss him as chairman. I just wanted to thank him for his help with this legislation, as well as his staff, Dimple Shah and others, Kristin Dini from my own office. I wanted to thank them all for their support and help with this measure. They have taken a lot of time to understand the difficulty the current policy poses to highly skilled and committed men and women serving in some of the most volatile regions of the world.

As the chairman briefly described, H.R. 6223 would amend current law to allow legal permanent residents working for the chief of mission in an interpreter, translator, or in an executive or managerial security-related position overseas to count their time of service toward the continuous residence and physical presence requirement for naturalization as a United States citizen.

While this change is seemingly minor in the grand scheme of immigration policy, it is one that should be addressed by Congress—if for no other reason than to recognize the critical contribution these men and women are making for our country in the war against terrorism in unstable regions across the globe.

Quite candidly and truthfully, I didn't give much thought to this issue until a few years ago when I was made aware of the selfless and highly skilled service being provided by a constituent and legal permanent resident from Pennsylvania, George Bou Jaoudeh, who happens to be a Lebanese national working with the State Department security overseas in Iraq since 2005.

Mr. Bou Jaoudeh spends 4 months in Iraq and then 20 days in the United States. As a green card holder with a desire to naturalize as a U.S. citizen, he has been unable to meet continuous residency and physical presence requirements because of his time working abroad in support of our country in a very dangerous place, I think we would all agree.

Consequently, even though he works inside the American embassy in Baghdad, George Bou Jaoudeh has not met his 1-year continuous residency requirement, which is absurd because he is serving our Nation on American territory in the embassy. It's a shame

that we have to use legislation to address this, but that's the situation we find ourselves in.

In September, the world watched as a violent raid on our embassy in Benghazi, Libya, took the life of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other brave Americans, two of whom have served as diplomatic security officers. Committed to serving our Nation, these men gave their lives to provide security for American diplomats in an unstable country, struggling in the midst of historic change.

There is a real enemy working to, at the very least, threaten American ideals and our way of life. Let's ensure the policies shaping our immigration laws do not create a greater hindrance to us in this fight.

With this bill under consideration today, we have the opportunity to recognize the legal permanent residents who have proven their commitment to our Nation's ideals and missions, should they be working with the State Department as executive-level security personnel, interpreter, or translator, regarding their continuous residence and physical presence requirements.

I ask the House to support this commonsense, reasonable legislation to make sure that we recognize individuals who are serving our country, legal residents who are serving in very dangerous places, serving in our State Department, that they be given the recognition they deserve and a proper pathway to citizenship.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6223, a bill that would expand upon a small, but important provision in our immigration laws and alleviate one barrier often faced by certain persons applying for naturalization.

Under our immigration laws, a lawful permanent resident who is applying to become a U.S. citizen generally must reside continuously in the United States for 5 years. Persons who are naturalizing by virtue of their marriage to a U.S. citizen or battered spouses or children may naturalize after a 3-year period of residence. A person must also be physically present in the United States for at least one-half of that time.

In 2007, Congress enacted a law to ensure that when a person works as an interpreter or translator in Iraq or Afghanistan for the U.S. chief of mission or the Armed Forces—either directly or by contract—that time should count toward the ''continuous residence'' requirement for naturalization.

This makes sense. Why should we penalize a lawful permanent resident for choosing to provide critical translation or interpretative services in Iraq or Afghanistan by saying that the person failed to reside continuously in the United States?

Today's bill builds on that commonsense provision in law in three ways:

First, it eliminates the geographical restriction in current law and says that time spent providing qualifying services to the U.S. chief of mission or Armed Forces anywhere in the world should be considered for naturalization purposes. Lawful permanent residents provide important services to our government all around the world, and it makes little sense to limit the provision only to service in those two countries.

Second, the current law applies only to the work of translators or interpreters, but lawful permanent residents assist our chiefs of mission and Armed Forces in a variety of important ways. To the current list of qualifying jobs, this bill adds certain high-level security-related work.

Finally, although the provision in current law only allows the time abroad not to count as a break in the ''continuous residence'' requirement for naturalization, this bill would allow the time also to count toward the ''physical presence'' requirement.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his work on the bill. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and 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. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6223, 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 section 1059(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 to clarify that a period of employment abroad by the Chief of Mission or United States Armed Forces as a translator, interpreter, or in a security-related position in an executive or managerial capacity is to be counted as a period of residence and physical presence in the United States for purposes of qualifying for naturalization, and for other purposes.''

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PATENT LAW TREATIES IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3486) to implement the provisions of the Hague Agreement and the Patent Law Treaty.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3486

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 ''Patent Law Treaties Implementation Act of 2012''.

TITLE I—HAGUE AGREEMENT CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS

SEC. 101. THE HAGUE AGREEMENT CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''PART V—THE HAGUE AGREEMENT CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS

''CHAPTER 38—INTERNATIONAL DESIGN APPLICATIONS

''§ 381. Definitions

''(a) IN GENERAL.—When used in this part, unless the context otherwise indicates—

''(1) the term 'treaty' means the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs adopted at Geneva on July 2, 1999;

''(2) the term 'regulations'—

''(A) when capitalized, means the Common Regulations under the treaty; and

''(B) when not capitalized, means the regulations established by the Director under this title;

''(3) the terms 'designation', 'designating', and 'designate' refer to a request that an international registration have effect in a Contracting Party to the treaty;

''(4) the term 'International Bureau' means the international intergovernmental organization that is recognized as the coordinating body under the treaty and the Regulations;

''(5) the term 'effective registration date' means the date of international registration determined by the International Bureau under the treaty;

''(6) the term 'international design application' means an application for international registration; and

''(7) the term 'international registration' means the international registration of an industrial design filed under the treaty.

''(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Terms and expressions not defined in this part are to be taken in the sense indicated by the treaty and the Regulations.

''§ 382. Filing international design applications

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Any person who is a national of the United States, or has a domicile, a habitual residence, or a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment in the United States, may file an international design application by submitting to the Patent and Trademark Office an application in such form, together with such fees, as may be prescribed by the Director.

''(b) REQUIRED ACTION.—The Patent and Trademark Office shall perform all acts connected with the discharge of its duties under the treaty, including the collection of international fees and transmittal thereof to the International Bureau. Subject to chapter 17, international design applications shall be forwarded by the Patent and Trademark Office to the International Bureau, upon payment of a transmittal fee.

''(c) APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER 16.—Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the provisions of chapter 16 shall apply.

''(d) APPLICATION FILED IN ANOTHER COUNTRY.—An international design application on an industrial design made in this country shall be considered to constitute the filing of