

While the administration is taking steps to formulate a strategy for international science cooperation, this bill will ensure that the process moves forward with the appropriate congressional oversight, which is something I think we can all agree on.

The U.S. scientific enterprise is admired across the world. In addition to helping our own researchers solve problems of national and global importance more efficiently, international cooperation helps to demonstrate the value of the free flow of ideas, which is the foundation of American democracy.

There is one other thing I wanted to raise. If anyone has any questions about the importance of collaboration when it comes to scientific endeavors, I certainly recommend the documentary "Particle Fever," which is about the work at CERN, in Switzerland, on the Large Hadron Collider. As a physicist searches for the Higgs boson—it sounds like it would be an incredibly boring documentary to watch, but it is just fascinating to see and to see the international cooperation that goes on as they do this search. It is a great example of what international collaboration can do in the scientific enterprise.

I want to thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member JOHNSON for working with me to improve the bill we have before us and to bring it to the floor. When this bill was considered in the 111th Congress, it passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support. I am hopeful that we will pass it again today and see action in the Senate as well. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Homeland Security Committee and former member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to rise and speak in support of H.R. 5029, the "International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2014."

I would like to thank the Chairman SMITH and Ranking EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of the Science, Space, and Technology House Committee for their work in advancing scientific cooperation around the globe that will benefit our domestic efforts to remain competitive and strong in a wide range of scientific fields.

The United States federal science agencies are already effective in collaborating with international agencies and organizations on Science and Technology (S&T), but this bill would ensure that there is a group that coordinates and looks for new opportunities to get involved with our international partners.

International cooperation in Science and Technology will help us answer scientific questions, and conduct elaborate research and development more quickly and efficiently.

According to the International Science and Technology Strategy for the United States Department of Defense, the non-U.S. component of global research and development is more than 60 percent of the total global investment and is expected to continue to outpace the U.S. contribution.

International collaboration would help us address global challenges on a broader scale

and would give mutual enhancement of resources for both the United States and its partners.

A few enhancements would allow access to unique research laboratories and facilities, risk reduction through multiple technical approaches to solve difficult technical problems, improve the warfighting capabilities of all involved, and potentially enhance interoperability during coalition operations.

Our partnerships with Service-sponsored international offices in the U.K., Japan, Singapore, and Australia, along with our partners in South America, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom in the Technical Cooperative Program, and the NATO Research and Technology Organization, give us a broad range of resources to work with across the world.

We must continue to enhance and strengthen our foreign relationships in S&T to broker new research, identify mutually advantageous opportunities, and exchange information with potential partners regarding research interests.

The International Space Station, which was built 16 years ago, and continues to operate under the collaboration of several countries around the world, is one of many portrayals that show how international relationships can produce profound research and discoveries.

The European Council for Nuclear Research which conducts in-depth studies on Earth's fundamental matter and particles is another prime example of how foreign collaboration is beneficial and effective in producing elaborate research.

The Center for Disease Control's World Health Organization is also one of the best illustrations of foreign collaboration used to advance the efforts in finding cures for diseases and conducting vital research and studies for global health concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in my support for H.R. 5029, and understand the importance of our international relationships involving Science and Technology, so that when successful, may lead to cooperative research, development and technology programs.

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. 5029.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. 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 motion will be postponed.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS, PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE, AND COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY ACT OF 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4185) to revise certain authorities of the District of Columbia courts, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Co-

lumbia, and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4185

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 "District of Columbia Courts, Public Defender Service, and Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. AUTHORITIES OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION TO COLLECT DEBTS AND ERRONEOUS PAYMENTS FROM EMPLOYEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by adding at the end of subchapter II the following new section:

"§ 11-1733. Collection, compromise, and waiver of employee debts and erroneous payments

"(a) COLLECTION OF DEBTS AND ERRONEOUS PAYMENTS MADE TO EMPLOYEES.—

"(1) AUTHORITY TO COLLECT.—If the Executive Officer determines that an employee or former employee of the District of Columbia Courts is indebted to the District of Columbia Courts because of an erroneous payment made to or on behalf of the employee, or any other debt, the Executive Officer may collect the amount of the indebtedness in accordance with this subsection.

"(2) TIMING OF COLLECTION.—Any debt authorized to be collected under this subsection may be collected in monthly installments or at officially established regular pay period intervals, by deduction in reasonable amounts from the current pay of the employee.

"(3) SOURCE OF DEDUCTIONS.—Deductions described in paragraph (2) may be made from any wages, salary, compensation, remuneration for services, or other authorized pay, including but not limited to incentive pay, back pay, and lump sum leave payments, but not including retirement pay.

"(4) LIMIT ON AMOUNT.—The amount deducted with respect to an employee for any period may not exceed 20 percent of the employee's disposable pay, except that a greater percentage may be deducted upon consent of the employee involved.

"(5) COLLECTIONS AFTER EMPLOYMENT.—If an employee's employment ends before collection of the amount of the employee's indebtedness is completed, deductions may be made from later non-periodic government payments of any nature due the former employee, except retirement pay, and such deductions may be made without regard to the limit under paragraph (4).

"(b) NOTICE AND HEARING REQUIRED.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), prior to initiating any proceedings under subsection (a) to collect any indebtedness of an individual, the Executive Officer shall provide the individual with—

"(A) a minimum of 30 days written notice, informing such individual of the nature and amount of the indebtedness determined by the District of Columbia Courts to be due, the intention of the Courts to initiate proceedings to collect the debt through deductions from pay, and an explanation of the rights of the individual under this section;

"(B) an opportunity to inspect and copy Court records relating to the debt;

"(C) an opportunity to enter into a written agreement with the Courts, under terms agreeable to the Executive Officer, to establish a schedule for the repayment of the debt; and

“(D) an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with paragraph (2) on the determination of the Courts concerning the existence or the amount of the debt, and in the case of an individual whose repayment schedule is established other than by a written agreement pursuant to subparagraph (C), concerning the terms of the repayment schedule.

“(2) PROCEDURES FOR HEARINGS.—

“(A) AVAILABILITY OF HEARING UPON REQUEST.—A hearing under this paragraph shall be provided if the individual, on or before the fifteenth day following receipt of the notice described in paragraph (1)(A), and in accordance with such procedures as the Executive Officer may prescribe, files a petition requesting such a hearing.

“(B) BASIS FOR HEARING.—Unless the hearing officer determines that the existence or the amount of the debt turns on an issue of credibility or veracity or cannot be resolved by a review of the documentary evidence, the hearing shall be on the written submissions.

“(C) STAY OF COLLECTION PROCEEDINGS.—The timely filing of a petition for hearing shall stay the commencement of collection proceedings.

“(D) INDEPENDENT OFFICER.—A hearing under this paragraph shall be conducted by an independent hearing officer appointed in accordance with regulations promulgated under subsection (e).

“(E) DEADLINE FOR DECISION.—The hearing officer shall issue a final decision regarding the questions covered by the hearing at the earliest practicable date, but not later than 60 days after the hearing.

“(3) EXCEPTION.—Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply to routine intra-Courts adjustments of pay that are attributable to clerical or administrative errors or delays in processing pay documents that have occurred within the 4 pay periods preceding the adjustment and to any adjustment that amounts to \$50 or less, if at the time of such adjustment, or as soon thereafter as practical, the individual is provided written notice of the nature and the amount of the adjustment and a point of contact for contesting such adjustment.

“(c) COMPROMISE.—

“(1) AUTHORITY TO COMPROMISE CLAIMS.—The Executive Officer may—

“(A) compromise a claim to collect an indebtedness under this section if the amount involved is not more than \$100,000; and

“(B) suspend or end collection action on such a claim if it appears that no person liable on the claim has the present or prospective ability to pay a significant amount of the claim or if the cost of collecting the claim is likely to be more than the amount recovered.

“(2) EFFECT OF COMPROMISE.—A compromise under this subsection is final and conclusive unless gotten by fraud, misrepresentation, presenting a false claim, or mutual mistake of fact.

“(3) NO LIABILITY OF OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPROMISE.—An accountable official is not liable for an amount paid or for the value of property lost or damaged if the amount or value is not recovered because of a compromise under this subsection.

“(d) WAIVER OF CLAIM.—

“(1) AUTHORITY TO WAIVE CLAIMS.—Upon application from a person liable on a claim to collect an indebtedness under this section, the Executive Officer may, with written justification, waive the claim if collection would be—

“(A) against equity;

“(B) against good conscience; and

“(C) not in the best interests of the Courts.

“(2) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY.—The Executive Officer may not exercise the authority under this subsection to waive a claim if—

“(A) in the Executive Officer’s opinion, there exists, in connection with the claim, an indication of fraud, misrepresentation, fault, or lack of good faith on the part of the employee, former employee, or any other person having an interest in obtaining a waiver of the claim; or

“(B) the application for waiver is received in the Executive Officer’s office after the expiration of 3 years immediately following the date on which the erroneous payment was discovered or 3 years after the date of the enactment of this section, whichever is later, except if the claim involves money owed for Federal health benefits, Federal life insurance, or Federal retirement benefits.

“(3) DENIAL OF APPLICATION FOR WAIVER.—A decision by the Executive Officer to deny an application for a waiver under this subsection shall be the final administrative decision of the District government.

“(4) REFUND OF AMOUNTS ALREADY COLLECTED AGAINST CLAIM SUBSEQUENTLY WAIVED.—If the Courts have been reimbursed for a claim under this section in whole or in part, and a waiver of the claim is then granted, the employee or former employee shall be entitled to a refund of the amount of the reimbursement upon application for that refund, so long as the application is received not later than 2 years after the effective date of the waiver.

“(5) EFFECT ON ACCOUNTS OF COURTS.—In the audit and settlement of accounts of any accountable official, full credit shall be given for any amounts with respect to which collection by the Courts is waived under this subsection.

“(6) VALIDITY OF PAYMENTS.—An erroneous payment or debt, the collection of which is waived under this subsection, is a valid payment for all purposes.

“(7) NO EFFECT ON OTHER AUTHORITIES.—Nothing contained in this subsection shall be construed to affect in any way the authority under any other statute to litigate, settle, compromise, or waive any claim of the District of Columbia.

“(e) REGULATIONS.—The Executive Officer’s authority under this section shall be subject to regulations promulgated by the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of chapter 17 of title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to subchapter II the following new item:

“11-1733. Collection, compromise, and waiver of employee debts and erroneous payments.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to erroneous payments made and debts incurred before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE UNIFORMS FOR PERSONNEL.—Section 11-1742(b), District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Under the authority of the previous sentence, the Executive Officer may purchase uniforms to be worn by nonjudicial employees of the District of Columbia Courts whose responsibilities warrant the wearing of uniforms, so long as the cost of furnishing a uniform to an employee during a year does not exceed the amount applicable for the year under section 5901(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code (relating to the uniform allowance for employees of the Government of the United States).”.

SEC. 3. AUTHORITIES OF COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY.

(a) AUTHORITY TO DEVELOP AND OPERATE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS FOR SENTENCED OFFENDERS.—Section 11233(b)(2)(F) of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Gov-

ernment Improvement Act of 1997 (sec. 24-133(b)(2)(F), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “sanctions” and inserting “sanction and incentive”.

(b) PERMANENT AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT GIFTS.—Section 11233(b)(3)(A) of such Act (sec. 24-133(b)(3)(A), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT GIFTS.—The Director may accept, solicit, and use on behalf of the Agency any monetary or nonmonetary gift, donation, bequest, or use of facilities, property, or services for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Agency.”.

(c) PERMANENT AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT AND USE REIMBURSEMENTS FROM DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.—Section 11233(b)(4) of such Act (sec. 24-133(b)(4)) is amended by striking “During fiscal years 2006 through 2008, the Director” and inserting “The Director”.

SEC. 4. AUTHORITIES OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE.

(a) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF SERVICES OF VOLUNTEERS.—Section 307(b) of such Act (sec. 2-1607(b), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “the Service may accept public grants and private contributions made to assist it” and inserting “the Service may accept and use public grants, private contributions, and voluntary and uncompensated (gratuitous) services to assist it”.

(b) TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS EMPLOYEES OF SERVICE FOR PURPOSES OF LIABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(d) of such Act (sec. 2-1603(d), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “employees of the District of Columbia” and inserting “employees of the Service”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the District of Columbia Courts and Justice Technical Corrections Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-274).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within 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 gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

This legislation, introduced by Ms. NORTON, would provide increased flexibility to the District of Columbia courts and related entities.

Among other provisions, H.R. 4185 would allow the D.C. courts to collect outstanding employee debts or overpayments, and authorizes its executive officer to purchase and provide uniforms for employees whose responsibilities warrant wearing uniforms.

The bill authorizes the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency to develop and operate incentive programs for sentenced offenders, such as vocational and educational training, and it allows the Public Defender Service to accept volunteer service.

I want to thank Ms. NORTON for all of her work on this bill, and I urge all Members to support this.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of the District of Columbia Courts, Public Defender Service, and Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency Act of 2014, or H.R. 4185.

First, I want to thank my good friends—the chairman of the full committee, Mr. ISSA, and our ranking member, Mr. CUMMINGS—for their work together with me on this bill, especially Chairman ISSA for seeing to it that this bill got to the House floor today.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes, really, quite minor changes, but they are important to the District of Columbia and to the Federal agencies involved. They happen to be Federal agencies that uniquely serve the District of Columbia.

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I will not bore the House with all of the elements of this bill because they will seem quite minor to the House, though, as I indicate, they are of some considerable importance to the agencies that are involved.

For example—and I will use examples only—for the courts, it allows the courts to collect debts owed to the courts by employees, such as debts for loss or damage to property and improper credit card payments. This is the kind of authority the court would now have.

Where there were erroneous payments to employees, those employees would get a hearing before any such collection was charged to them.

The courts would have the authority to purchase uniforms, as an example. As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, in our courts, it would be important that everyone who has the authority to enter the courts have the same kind of uniform, given the kinds of secure hearings that take place here in the District of Columbia, even more so than in most other courts—Federal courts of the United States.

As an example, for the Public Defender Service, the board of trustees should be treated as Federal employees or Public Defender Service employees. They were formerly treated as District of Columbia employees because this used to be a District of Columbia agency.

As an example, from the Court Services administration, which serves our offenders who are under court supervision, there is an important section, as an example, to allow CSOSA—as we call it—to use incentives-based programming and not alone sanctions because all of the documentation shows that incentives, along with sanctions—not sanctions alone—are best to get compliance with supervision.

There are a number of others. I thank the committee for bringing this

bill, important to the District of Columbia, to the floor before the end of the August recess.

I thank my good friend from Arizona for yielding, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the District of Columbia Courts, Public Defender Service, and Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency Act of 2014 (H.R. 4185).

I would like to thank Chairman ISSA and Ranking Members CUMMINGS for their work together to assist me with this bill, and Chairman ISSA for seeing to it that the bill would be on the floor today. This bill makes minor changes, but they are important, to the authorities of the District of Columbia Courts (Courts), the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS) and the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA), placing these entities in the same position as their federal counterparts for more effective management and operation.

This bill would allow the Courts to collect debts owed to the Courts by its employees, such as debts from loss or damage to property, improper credit card payments, erroneous payments to employees and the like. The Courts would have to provide employees with at least 30 days's written notice regarding the debt collection, and employees would have the right to a hearing conducted by an independent officer. The bill would also give the Courts the authority to purchase uniforms to ensure the safety of its building engineers, maintenance workers and main personnel. These service employees must regularly access buildings run by the Courts at all hours. The increase in the number of security incidents in courthouses throughout the country as well as the location of the Courts here in the nation's capital require visual security and uniformity of staff to help ensure that unauthorized persons do not enter secure areas.

The bill also would allow PDS to accept and use public grants and both voluntary and uncompensated services, such as unpaid law clerks and interns, as well as private contributions made to advance PDS's work. It would allow the members of the PDS board of trustees to be treated as PDS employees instead of District of Columbia employees for purposes of liability. Under current law, due to an apparent drafting error, the members of the board are treated as District of Columbia employees for purposes of any action brought against board members. PDS employees are not District of Columbia employees. PDS has the authority to indemnify its board. This bill would rectify this oversight.

Finally, this bill would allow CSOSA to develop and implement incentive-based programming to accompany its current sanction policies. Combining both sanctions and incentives has proven to be more effective than only compliance with supervision. The bill also would authorize CSOSA to solicit, receive and use gifts for the purpose of advancing its work, and would require the CSOSA to keep detailed records on its use of this gift authority. It would also permit the Director to enter into cost-reimbursement agreements with the D.C. government for space or services provided. The D.C. government is a frequent partner of CSOSA's due to its location in D.C. and CSOSA's mandate to assist in the reintegra-

tion of D.C. Code offenders into society. Giving CSOSA the authority to enter into reimbursable agreements with the District is necessary to assist CSOSA in its daily work.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I urge all Members to join me in support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4185.

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.

RICHARD K. SALICK POST OFFICE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 451) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida, as the "Richard K. Salick Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 451

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

SECTION 1. RICHARD K. SALICK POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Richard K. Salick Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Richard K. Salick Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within 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 gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 451, introduced by my colleague, Representative BILL POSEY of Florida, would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida, as the Richard K. Salick Post Office.

Richard Salick was a devoted and charitable member of his community in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Salick was an