

We will stand by our friends and help them do what is necessary—all that is necessary—to defeat terror and to defeat radical extremism.

I urge my colleagues to support this vital, important bill and support our key ally, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. I would like to thank Mr. ROYCE and Mr. ENGEL again for their leadership, as well as Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. GRANGER, and Mrs. LOWEY.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 907, U.S.-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015.

The United States has no stronger partner in the Arab world than Jordan, and His Majesty King Abdullah II continues to be a pioneer in bolstering moderate political voices both in Jordan and throughout the Muslim world.

During such a tumultuous time in the region, with the rise of ISIL and the unprecedented humanitarian needs of millions of refugees, stability and security in Jordan remain vital to our own interests.

That is why this legislation is so important. It would help strengthen military and economic ties between our two countries.

As the Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, I remain committed to our strategic partnership with Jordan, and I will continue to work as hard as possible to promote stability, economic growth, and prosperity for the Jordanian people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 907, 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.

VETERAN'S I.D. CARD ACT

Mr. ABRAHAM. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 91) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue, upon request, veteran identification cards to certain veterans.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Identification Card Act 2015”.

SEC. 2. VETERANS IDENTIFICATION CARD.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Effective on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, veteran identification cards were issued to veterans who have either completed the statutory time-in-service requirement for retirement from the Armed Forces or who have received a medical-related discharge from the Armed Forces.

(2) Effective on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, a veteran who served a minimum obligated time in service, but who did not meet the criteria described in paragraph (1), did not receive a means of identifying the veteran's status as a veteran other than using the Department of Defense form DD-214 discharge papers of the veteran.

(3) Goods, services, and promotional activities are often offered by public and private institutions to veterans who demonstrate proof of service in the military, but it is impractical for a veteran to always carry Department of Defense form DD-214 discharge papers to demonstrate such proof.

(4) A general purpose veteran identification card made available to veterans would be useful to demonstrate the status of the veterans without having to carry and use official Department of Defense form DD-214 discharge papers.

(5) On the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department of Veterans Affairs had the infrastructure in place across the United States to produce photographic identification cards and accept a small payment to cover the cost of these cards.

(b) PROVISION OF VETERAN IDENTIFICATION CARDS.—Chapter 57 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 5705 the following new section:

“§5706. Veterans identification card

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall issue an identification card described in subsection (b) to each veteran who—

“(1) requests such card;

“(2) presents a copy of Department of Defense form DD-214 or other official document from the official military personnel file of the veteran that describes the service of the veteran; and

“(3) pays the fee under subsection (c)(1).

“(b) IDENTIFICATION CARD.—An identification card described in this subsection is a card issued to a veteran that—

“(1) displays a photograph of the veteran;

“(2) displays the name of the veteran;

“(3) explains that such card is not proof of any benefits to which the veteran is entitled to;

“(4) contains an identification number that is not a social security number; and

“(5) serves as proof that such veteran—

“(A) served in the Armed Forces; and

“(B) has a Department of Defense form DD-214 or other official document in the official military personnel file of the veteran that describes the service of the veteran.

“(c) COSTS OF CARD.—(1) The Secretary shall charge a fee to each veteran who receives an identification card issued under this section, including a replacement identification card.

“(2)(A) The fee charged under paragraph (1) shall equal such amount as the Secretary determines is necessary to issue an identification card under this section.

“(B) In determining the amount of the fee under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure that the total amount of fees collected under paragraph (1) equals an amount necessary to carry out this section, including costs related to any additional equipment or personnel required to carry out this section.

“(C) The Secretary shall review and reassess the determination under subparagraph (A) during each five-year period in which the Secretary issues an identification card under this section.

“(3) Amounts collected under this subsection shall be deposited in an account of the Department available to carry out this section. Amounts so deposited shall be—

“(A) merged with amounts in such account;

“(B) available in such amounts as may be provided in appropriation Acts; and

“(C) subject to the same conditions and limitations as amounts otherwise in such account.

“(d) EFFECT OF CARD ON BENEFITS.—(1) An identification card issued under this section shall not serve as proof of any benefits that the veteran may be entitled to under this title.

“(2) A veteran who is issued an identification card under this section shall not be entitled to any benefits under this title by reason of possessing such card.

“(e) ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure that any information collected or used with respect to an identification card issued under this section is appropriately secured.

“(2) The Secretary may determine any appropriate procedures with respect to issuing a replacement identification card.

“(3) In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall coordinate with the National Personnel Records Center.

“(4) The Secretary may conduct such outreach to advertise the identification card under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(f) CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall not be construed to affect identification cards otherwise provided by the Secretary to veterans enrolled in the health care system established under section 1705(a) of this title.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5705 the following new item:

“5706. Veterans identification card.”.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material on the Senate amendment to H.R. 91.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1430

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

Madam Speaker, many businesses show their gratitude to our Nation's servicemembers and veterans by offering special discounts on goods and services to those who have served our Nation in uniform.

Unfortunately, unless a servicemember is a qualified military retiree, DOD does not issue an official ID card as proof of service. That means that millions of veterans cannot easily provide evidence of their service.

This bill, as amended, would change that by directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue a veteran's ID card that would display the veteran's name and photograph to any veteran who requests such a card, as long as the veteran is not entitled to military retired pay, nor enrolled in the VA healthcare system.

This card would give those who served in the Armed Forces a convenient way to prove that they are veterans, for the purpose of receiving the

promotions and discounts offered by many businesses around the country.

The bill, as amended, would also require the Secretary to determine a fee to be charged that would cover all costs of producing the cards and managing the program. The bill also specifies that the card does not entitle the holder to any VA benefits.

H.R. 91 passed the House by a vote of 402-0 on May 18. The Senate passed it by unanimous consent on June 22, with an amendment that would authorize VA to provide this card to any person who meets the statutory definition of a veteran.

Under current law, a veteran is defined as "a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable."

I thank my colleague Mr. BUCHANAN for his efforts on this commonsense legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 91 passed the House 402-0, as my good friend mentioned, in May. It was amended by the Senate and passed 2 weeks ago. Today, we are taking up the Senate amendment to H.R. 91. This measure will assist veterans in proving that they are indeed veterans.

In most instances, a veteran must be enrolled with the VA to receive a VA ID card or utilize their DD-214 to prove their military service, which may contain personal health information.

Veterans who retire from the armed services are issued a Department of Defense ID card that serves this purpose. However, the majority of servicemembers do not retire in service, leaving millions of veterans sometimes challenged to provide proof of their honorable military service.

Extending the option of a veterans ID is a simple way to resolve this issue and honor America's veterans.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN).

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, today is a good day for our Nation's veterans.

My legislation will allow all veterans to receive official ID cards through the VA. No longer will veterans be forced to carry around documents that contain sensitive information that puts them at needless risk of identity theft, and it does all this at no cost to the taxpayer.

Madam Speaker, this bill is a prime example of what can be accomplished when we put partisanship aside and the needs of our country first.

Thank you, and God bless our men and women in uniform.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I join Vietnam Veterans of America, the As-

sociation of the U.S. Navy, American Veterans, and others in wholehearted support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 91, the Veterans I.D. Card Act of 2015.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Madam Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 91, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 91.

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. ABRAHAM. Madam 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.

LAND MANAGEMENT WORKFORCE FLEXIBILITY ACT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1531) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide a pathway for temporary seasonal employees in Federal land management agencies to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1531

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 "Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act".

SEC. 2. PERSONNEL FLEXIBILITIES RELATING TO LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart I of part III of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 95 the following:

"CHAPTER 96—PERSONNEL FLEXIBILITIES RELATING TO LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

"Sec.

"9601. Definitions.

"9602. Competitive service; time-limited appointments.

"§ 9601. Definitions

"For purposes of this chapter—

"(1) the term 'land management agency' means—

"(A) the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture;

"(B) the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior;

"(C) the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior;

"(D) the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior;

"(E) the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior; and

"(F) the Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior; and

"(2) the term 'time-limited appointment' includes a temporary appointment and a term appointment, as defined by the Office of Personnel Management.

"§ 9602. Competitive service; time-limited appointments

"(a) Notwithstanding chapter 33 or any other provision of law relating to the examination, certification, and appointment of individuals in the competitive service, an employee of a land management agency serving under a time-limited appointment in the competitive service is eligible to compete for a permanent appointment in the competitive service at any land management agency or any other agency (as defined in section 101 of title 31) under the internal merit promotion procedures of the applicable agency if—

"(1) the employee was appointed initially under open, competitive examination under subchapter I of chapter 33 to the time-limited appointment;

"(2) the employee has served under 1 or more time-limited appointments by a land management agency for a period or periods totaling more than 24 months without a break of 2 or more years; and

"(3) the employee's performance has been at an acceptable level of performance throughout the period or periods (as the case may be) referred to in paragraph (2).

"(b) In determining the eligibility of a time-limited employee under this section to be examined for or appointed in the competitive service, the Office of Personnel Management or other examining agency shall waive requirements as to age, unless the requirement is essential to the performance of the duties of the position.

"(c) An individual appointed under this section—

"(1) becomes a career-conditional employee, unless the employee has otherwise completed the service requirements for career tenure; and

"(2) acquires competitive status upon appointment.

"(d) A former employee of a land management agency who served under a time-limited appointment and who otherwise meets the requirements of this section shall be deemed a time-limited employee for purposes of this section if—

"(1) such employee applies for a position covered by this section within the period of 2 years after the most recent date of separation; and

"(2) such employee's most recent separation was for reasons other than misconduct or performance.

"(e) The Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this section."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for part III of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item for chapter 95 the following:

"96. Personnel flexibilities relating to land management agencies 9601".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam 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.