

going to play an expanded role, I believe, in making this Federal Government even more efficient.

I encourage my colleagues to join us in this effort to save millions of taxpayer dollars, support good jobs, and make the Federal Government run more efficiently.

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

In closing, having heard the comments on this, I urge the adoption of this commonsense bill that encourages also us doing an environmental thing as well in using resources that we have.

I ask that my colleagues support this commonsense bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 565.

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.

GRANTS OVERSIGHT AND NEW EFFICIENCY ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3089) to close out expired 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. 3089

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 “Grants Oversight and New Efficiency Act” or the “GONE Act”.

SEC. 2. IDENTIFYING AND CLOSING OUT EXPIRED GRANTS.

(a) EXPIRED GRANT REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall instruct the head of each agency, in coordination with the Secretary, to submit to Congress and the Secretary a report, not later than December 31 of the first calendar year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, that—

(A) lists each covered grant held by such agency;

(B) provides the total number of covered grants, including the number of grants—

- (i) by time period of expiration;
- (ii) with zero dollar balances; and
- (iii) with undisbursed balances;

(C) for an agency with covered grants, describes the challenges leading to delays in grant closeout; and

(D) for the 30 oldest covered grants of an agency, explains why each covered grant has not been closed out.

(2) USE OF DATA SYSTEMS.—An agency may use existing multiagency data systems in order to submit the report required under paragraph (1).

(3) EXPLANATION OF MISSING INFORMATION.—If the head of an agency is unable to submit all of the information required to be included in the report under paragraph (1), the report shall include an explanation of why the information was not available, including

any shortcomings with and plans to improve existing grant systems, including data systems.

(b) NOTICE FROM AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date on which the head of an agency submits the report required under subsection (a), the head of the agency shall provide notice to the Secretary specifying whether the head of the agency has closed out grant awards associated with all of the covered grants in the report and which covered grants in the report have not been closed out.

(2) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which all of the notices required pursuant to paragraph (1) have been provided or March 31 of the calendar year following the calendar year described in subsection (a)(1), whichever is sooner, the Secretary shall compile the notices submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) and submit to Congress a report on such notices.

(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than one year after the date on which the head of an agency provides notice to Congress under subsection (b)(2), the Inspector General of such agency with more than \$500,000,000 in grant funding shall conduct a risk assessment to determine if an audit or review of the agency’s grant closeout process is warranted.

(d) REPORT ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the second report is submitted pursuant to subsection (b)(2), the Director of Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall submit to Congress a report on recommendations for legislation to improve accountability and oversight in grants management, including the timely closeout of a covered grant.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) CLOSEOUT.—The term “closeout” means a closeout of a grant account conducted in accordance with part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, including sections 200.16 and 200.343 of such title, or any successor thereto.

(3) COVERED GRANT.—The term “covered grant” means a grant in an agency cash payment management system held by the United States Government for which—

(A) the grant award period of performance, including any extensions, has been expired for not less than 2 years; and

(B) closeout has not yet occurred in accordance with section 200.343 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. 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 gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

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

I introduced H.R. 3089, the Grants Oversight and New Efficiency, or GONE, Act, to bring much-needed accountability to the Federal grant-making process.

This bipartisan bill requires each agency to report to Congress on the amount of expired and empty grant accounts that remain open on the government’s books.

Under the bill, the agencies must examine the 30 grants that have been expired for the longest period of time and explain why these grants have not been closed.

One year after this initial report, these agencies will update Congress, reporting on which accounts previously identified have been closed and which remain open. These reports will help Congress better understand why expired grant accounts remain open at taxpayer expense.

Mr. Speaker, in fiscal year 2014, Federal grant expenditures exceeded \$529 billion, and that is real money. This enormous amount of money demands strong financial management to protect taxpayer dollars from waste.

In 2012, GAO released a report on the timeliness of grant closeouts by Federal agencies. The report found nearly \$1 billion remaining in undisbursed funds within expired grant accounts.

Within one of the grant management systems GAO examined, there were almost 1,000 accounts that had been expired for 5 years or more and still had not been closed out.

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GAO found out that this same management system contained 28,000 expired grant accounts with no funds in them. Mr. Speaker, expired grant accounts create multiple levels of waste.

First, the undisbursed funds remaining in expired accounts could be better used for their appropriated purpose or returned to the Treasury to help bring down the deficit and mounting debt.

Second, agencies pay a monthly fee for each account that remains open within the Federal payment management system. As a result, agencies could be spending roughly \$2 million per year to maintain these 28,000 accounts with no funds in them, assuming they have not been closed. Surely we can find a better use for these taxpayer dollars rather than wasting funds maintaining expired accounts.

Finally, grants that are not properly closed out slow the grant-making agency from conducting the necessary oversight to ensure that funds were properly spent and that taxpayer money is not being wasted. The GONE Act is a response to these issues.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3089 utilizes the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate with agencies to provide these reports to Congress. HHS was chosen for this role because of some of its successful closeout efforts implemented in 2011. HHS’s commendable work on grant closeout is exactly

why we added a provision to this bill requiring HHS to coordinate with the Office of Management and Budget in reporting to Congress on legislative changes needed to improve the process of grants administration.

H.R. 3089 strengthens oversight by asking the inspectors general of the largest grant-making agencies to conduct a risk assessment of their agency's grant closeout processes.

I thank Senators FISCHER and MANCHIN for their work on the Senate companion bill, S. 1115, including their work on the bill before the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to bring some commonsense steps to the Federal grant-making process by supporting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the legislation under consideration, H.R. 3089, the Grant Oversight and New Efficiency Act, was introduced by my friend Mr. WALBERG of Michigan in July of this year; and it was reported out of the House Oversight Committee with the support of Mrs. BRENDA LAWRENCE, also of Michigan, this month. This bill would require one-time reports from Federal agencies on expired grants.

As noted earlier by Mr. WALBERG, in a report by the Government Accountability Office, Federal agencies do not always close out expired grants properly. In fact, GAO has found that in 2011, nearly \$800 million in undisbursed balances remained in expired grant accounts. That money could be returned to the Treasury and spent on any number of pressing priorities here in the House and Senate.

In particular, Mr. WALBERG's bill, H.R. 3089, would require agencies to report to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and Congress on grants that have expired and whether they have undisbursed balances. The bill would also require agencies to make recommendations on which grants should be closed out immediately as well as explain why certain grants were not properly closed out to begin with.

I commend the Representatives from Michigan, both Mr. WALBERG, our lead sponsor on this bill, and Mrs. LAWRENCE, for their work on this bipartisan bill. This is a commonsense, good government measure that every Member should support.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his support and leadership on the floor. I thank the chairman and ranking member of our committee. Most importantly, I thank my good friend and colleague from Michigan, Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE, for her support and helpful additions to this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this commonsense bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3089, 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.

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2015

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3614) to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3614

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2015".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—AIRPORT AND AIRWAY PROGRAMS

Sec. 101. Extension of airport improvement program.

Sec. 102. Extension of expiring authorities.

Sec. 103. Federal Aviation Administration operations.

Sec. 104. Air navigation facilities and equipment.

Sec. 105. Research, engineering, and development.

Sec. 106. Funding for aviation programs.

Sec. 107. Essential air service.

TITLE II—REVENUE PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. Expenditure authority from Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

Sec. 202. Extension of taxes funding Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

TITLE I—AIRPORT AND AIRWAY PROGRAMS

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 48103(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting "and \$1,675,000,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016."

(2) OBLIGATION OF AMOUNTS.—Subject to limitations specified in advance in appropriation Acts, sums made available pursuant to the amendment made by paragraph (1) may be obligated at any time through September 30, 2016, and shall remain available until expended.

(3) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.—For purposes of calculating funding apportionments and meeting other requirements under sections 47114, 47115, 47116, and 47117 of title 49, United States Code, for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall—

(A) first calculate such funding apportionments on an annualized basis as if the total amount available under section 48103 of such title for fiscal year 2016 were \$3,350,000,000; and

(B) then reduce by 50 percent—

(i) all funding apportionments calculated under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) amounts available pursuant to sections 47117(b) and 47117(f)(2) of such title.

(b) PROJECT GRANT AUTHORITY.—Section 47104(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking "September 30, 2015," and inserting "March 31, 2016."

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF EXPIRING AUTHORITIES.

(a) Section 47107(r)(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "October 1, 2015" and inserting "April 1, 2016".

(b) Section 47115(j) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting "and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016" after "fiscal years 2012 through 2015".

(c) Section 47124(b)(3)(E) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting "and not more than \$5,175,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016," after "fiscal years 2012 through 2015".

(d) Section 47141(f) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "March 31, 2016".

(e) Section 50905(c)(3) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "October 1, 2015," and inserting "April 1, 2016."

(f) Section 186(d) of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (117 Stat. 2518) is amended by inserting "and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016," after "fiscal years 2012 through 2015".

(g) Section 409(d) of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (49 U.S.C. 41731 note) is amended by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "March 31, 2016".

(h) Section 140(c)(1) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 47113 note) is amended by striking "fiscal years 2013 through 2015," and inserting "fiscal years 2013 through 2016."

(i) Section 411(h) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 42301 prec. note) is amended by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "March 31, 2016".

(j) Section 822(k) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 47141 note) is amended by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "March 31, 2016".

SEC. 103. FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS.

Section 106(k) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C) by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (D) by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

"(E) \$4,870,350,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016."; and

(2) in paragraph (3) by inserting "and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016" after "fiscal years 2012 through 2015".

SEC. 104. AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.

Section 48101(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(5) \$1,300,000,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016."