

level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) **DETAIL OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An employee of the Federal Government may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement.

(2) **CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.**—The detail of the employee shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(e) **PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.**—The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

(f) **ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**—The Commission may appoint such advisory committees as the Commission determines necessary.

SEC. 9. EXPENDITURES OF COMMISSION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—All expenditures of the Commission shall be made solely from donated funds.

(b) **ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARIAT.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall, through a competitive process, seek to enter into an arrangement with a nonprofit organization, the mission of which is consistent with the purpose of this Act. Under such arrangement, such nonprofit organization shall—

(1) serve as the secretariat of the Commission, including by serving as the point of contact under section 5(e);

(2) house the administrative offices of the Commission;

(3) assume responsibility for funds of the Commission; and

(4) provide to the Commission financial and administrative services, including services related to budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, personnel, and procurement.

(c) **PAYMENT FOR FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), payment for services provided under subsection (b)(4) shall be made in advance, or by reimbursement, from funds of the Commission in such amounts as may be agreed on by the Chairperson of the Commission and the secretariat of the Commission.

(2) **RELATIONSHIP TO REGULATIONS.**—

(A) **ERRONEOUS PAYMENTS.**—The regulations under section 5514 of title 5, United States Code, relating to the collection of indebtedness of personnel resulting from erroneous payments shall apply to the collection of erroneous payments made to, or on behalf of, a Commission employee.

(B) **NO PROMULGATION BY COMMISSION.**—The Commission shall not be required to prescribe any regulations relating to the matters described in subparagraph (A).

(d) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Once each year during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2027, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report of the activities of the Commission, including an accounting of funds received and expended during the year covered by the report.

SEC. 10. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.

The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2027.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4875, as introduced by Congressman PATRICK MEEHAN of Pennsylvania.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) to talk about this bill.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, one of my favorite Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin, once said that “by failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”

H.R. 4875, the United States Semiquincentennial Act of 2016 establishes a commission to facilitate the national plans leading up to America’s 250th birthday on July 4, 2026. This is the same process that was used in planning for the bicentennial celebrations all across the Nation in 1976.

There is much to do, so we are following Ben Franklin’s advice here and starting the planning 10 years ahead of what should be an historic celebration.

To develop these plans, the 32-member body of private citizens and public officials will meet in historic Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the very place where our new Nation was declared. Within 2 years of its formation, the commission is charged with reporting recommendations on plans to the President and to Congress. Importantly, this legislation does not appropriate any funds toward the commission activities. The commission will rely solely on generous donations from private citizens.

□ 2100

While the United States was founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the commission will not be limited to planning events just in our great city. H.R. 4875 encourages the commission to develop event plans at sites of historical significance, at battlefields and important locations all across the Nation that will truly celebrate the birth of the United States of America.

I want to thank my colleague BOB BRADY for his leadership and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for their work on the measure.

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

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4875, the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016. The bill, as we just heard, was introduced in the House by my colleague and friend, Representative PATRICK MEEHAN, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation.

Yesterday in my district, in Philadelphia, like all of the districts around the country, we were proudly cele-

brating the 240th birthday of the United States. On July 4, 2026, we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of our country.

H.R. 4875 would establish a commission to plan, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of this important anniversary across the country. The commission’s events would highlight locations of historical significance, including key cities such as Boston, Charleston, New York, and of course the Nation’s birthplace of Philadelphia, my hometown.

The commission would also emphasize the roles of individuals who have made significant impacts on American history.

Under this legislation, the Department of the Interior would be required to study and report on actions to further the preservation of historic sites and develop fitting commemoration exhibits.

Other Federal agencies would coordinate the development of scholarly works on, and artistic expressions of, American history, culture, and political thought; and the Secretary of State would facilitate the participation of foreign countries in the celebration.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to begin the planning of this special event only a decade away. I urge Members to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I would urge the passage of H.R. 4875. I appreciate the good work of Mr. MEEHAN, who helped champion this through in a bipartisan way. I appreciate Mr. BOYLE and his passion on this issue as well.

All Americans are grateful for this Nation. And certainly celebrating its history is appropriate. I urge the passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4875, 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.

400 YEARS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY COMMISSION ACT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4539) to establish the 400 Years of African-American History Commission, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4539

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 “400 Years of African-American History Commission Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **COMMEMORATION.**—The term “commemoration” means the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in the English colonies, at Point Comfort, Virginia, in 1619.

(2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the 400 Years of African-American History Commission established by section 3(a).

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established a commission, to be known as the “400 Years of African-American History Commission”.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **COMPOSITION.**—The Commission shall be composed of 15 members, of whom—

(A) 3 members shall be appointed by the Secretary after considering recommendations of Governors, including the Governor of Virginia;

(B) 6 members shall be appointed by the Secretary after considering recommendations of civil rights organizations and historical organizations;

(C) 1 member shall be an employee of the National Park Service having experience relative to the historical and cultural resources related to the commemoration, to be appointed by the Secretary;

(D) 2 members shall be appointed by the Secretary after considering the recommendations of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; and

(E) 3 members shall be individuals who have an interest in, support for, and expertise appropriate to the commemoration, appointed by the Secretary after considering the recommendations of Members of Congress.

(2) **TIME OF APPOINTMENT.**—Each appointment of an initial member of the Commission shall be made before the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) **TERM; VACANCIES.**—

(A) **TERM.**—A member of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(B) **VACANCIES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—A vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(ii) **PARTIAL TERM.**—A member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Commission shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of the member was appointed.

(C) **CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.**—If a member of the Commission was appointed to the Commission as an employee of the National Park Service, and ceases to be an employee of the National Park Service, that member may continue to serve on the Commission for not longer than the 30-day period beginning on the date on which that member ceases to be an employee of the National Park Service.

(c) **DUTIES.**—The Commission shall—

(1) plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities throughout the United States—

(A) appropriate for the commemoration;

(B) to recognize and highlight the resilience and contributions of African-Americans since 1619;

(C) to acknowledge the impact that slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination had on the United States; and

(D) to educate the public about—

(i) the arrival of Africans in the United States; and

(ii) the contributions of African-Americans to the United States;

(2) encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, economic, and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in anniversary activities to expand understanding and appreciation of—

(A) the significance of the arrival of Africans in the United States; and

(B) the contributions of African-Americans to the United States;

(3) provide technical assistance to States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration;

(4) coordinate and facilitate for the public scholarly research on, publication about, and interpretation of—

(A) the arrival of Africans in the United States; and

(B) the contributions of African-Americans to the United States;

(5) ensure that the commemoration provides a lasting legacy and long-term public benefit by assisting in the development of appropriate programs; and

(6) help ensure that the observances of the commemoration are inclusive and appropriately recognize the experiences and heritage of all individuals present at the arrival of Africans in the United States.

SEC. 4. COMMISSION MEETINGS.

(a) **INITIAL MEETING.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(b) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet—

(1) at least 3 times each year; or

(2) at the call of the Chairperson or the majority of the members of the Commission.

(c) **QUORUM.**—A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold meetings.

(d) **CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.**—

(1) **ELECTION.**—The Commission shall elect the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the Commission on an annual basis.

(2) **ABSENCE OF THE CHAIRPERSON.**—The Vice Chairperson shall serve as the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

(e) **VOTING.**—The Commission shall act only on an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Commission.

SEC. 5. COMMISSION POWERS.

(a) **GIFTS.**—The Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of money or other property for aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission.

(b) **APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**—The Commission may appoint such advisory committees as the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out this Act.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF ACTION.**—The Commission may authorize any member or employee of the Commission to take any action that the Commission is authorized to take under this Act.

(d) **PROCUREMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission may procure supplies, services, and property, and make or enter into contracts, leases, or other legal agreements, to carry out this Act (except that a contract, lease, or other legal agreement made or entered into by the Commission shall not extend beyond the date of termination of the Commission).

(2) **LIMITATION.**—The Commission may not purchase real property.

(e) **POSTAL SERVICES.**—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(f) **GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Commission may—

(1) provide grants in amounts not to exceed \$20,000 per grant to communities and nonprofit organizations for use in developing programs to assist in the commemoration;

(2) provide grants to research and scholarly organizations to research, publish, or distribute information relating to the arrival of Africans in the United States; and

(3) provide technical assistance to States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration.

SEC. 6. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a member of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

(2) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation other than the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(b) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(c) **DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), nominate an executive director to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(2) **CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(d) **COMPENSATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(2) **MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.**—The rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(e) **DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—

(1) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—

(A) **DETAIL.**—At the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out the duties of the Commission under this Act.

(B) **CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.**—The detail of an employee under subparagraph (A) shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(2) **STATE EMPLOYEES.**—The Commission may—

(A) accept the services of personnel detailed from the State; and

(B) reimburse the State for services of detailed personnel.

(f) **PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.**—The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(g) **VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.**—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title

31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use such voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines to be necessary.

(h) SUPPORT SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, such administrative support services as the Commission may request.

(2) REIMBURSEMENT.—Any reimbursement under this paragraph shall be credited to the appropriation, fund, or account used for paying the amounts reimbursed.

(i) NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section supersedes the authority of the National Park Service with respect to the commemoration.

SEC. 7. PLANS; REPORTS.

(a) STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Commission shall prepare a strategic plan for the activities of the Commission carried out under this Act.

(b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than July 1, 2020, the Commission shall complete and submit to Congress a final report that contains—

(1) a summary of the activities of the Commission;

(2) a final accounting of funds received and expended by the Commission; and

(3) the findings and recommendations of the Commission.

SEC. 8. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.

(a) DATE OF TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on July 1, 2020.

(b) TRANSFER OF DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS.—Before the date of termination specified in subsection (a), the Commission shall transfer all documents and materials of the Commission to the National Archives or another appropriate Federal entity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. 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 gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4539, introduced by Congressman BOBBY SCOTT of Virginia.

In 1619, the first people from Africa arrived at the English colonies in Point Comfort, Virginia. To highlight the significant history and cultural impact of the 400th anniversary of the first Africans to arrive at Point Comfort, this bill creates a commission to plan and carry out commemorative activities.

The Commission's membership will be comprised of members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior after considering recommendations of civil rights and historical organizations: the secretary of the Smithsonian, Members of Congress, and Governors from across the country.

Under the bill, the commission will plan, develop, and carry out programs

and activities to recognize and highlight the resilience and contributions of African Americans since 1619 and to acknowledge the impact that slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination had on the United States.

The bill will also coordinate and facilitate for the public scholarly research on the arrival of Africans in the United States and the contributions of African Americans throughout our Nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 4539.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to speak on this resolution, but we are very privileged to have its author right here with us. So I will yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in support of H.R. 4539. The 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act was introduced earlier in the Senate by Senators TIM KAINE and MARK WARNER, and I was proud to introduce the House version with the support of Representatives Rigell, Butterfield, Forbes, Beyer, Wittman, Lewis, and many others.

I would like to thank Chairman CHAFFETZ, Ranking Member CUMMINGS, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) for their assistance in bringing the bill to the floor today.

This bill would establish a commission to begin planning programs and activities across the Nation to recognize the many contributions of African Americans since the first arrival of Africans in the English colonies at Point Comfort, Virginia, in 1619.

African Americans have contributed greatly to our Nation, and their achievements deserve to be celebrated. The history of Virginia and our Nation cannot be fully understood without recognizing the role played by the slave trade.

Slavery was an abhorrent institution; but for hundreds of years, it was the foundation of the colonial and early American agricultural system and was essential to its economic sustainability. The 20 Africans who arrived at Point Comfort, Virginia, in Hampton, Virginia, in 1619 were the first on record to be forcibly settled as involuntary laborers in the English colonies.

The 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act will be instrumental in recognizing and highlighting the resilience and contributions of African Americans since 1619. From slavery, to fighting in the Civil War, to working against the oppression of Jim Crow segregation, to the civil rights movement, the rich history of African Americans and their contributions to our Nation began hundreds of years ago but obviously does not end there.

The commission established by this bill will be charged with the important task of planning, developing, and implementing a series of programs and activities throughout 2019 to fully tell the story of African Americans, their contributions, and their resilience over the last 400 years and even earlier, as Africans were brought to North America by the Spanish more than a century earlier.

The efforts of this 15-member commission, which will include historical experts and not politicians, will ensure that the legacy of those Africans in colonial America, along with other African American leaders whose contributions have helped move our Nation forward, are recognized appropriately.

It would be a great disservice not only to African Americans but all Americans if we failed to appropriately recognize this important upcoming milestone in our Nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, the ranking member, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania for their leadership in this effort. And I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding. I thank the manager for his leadership, the chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. And let me also thank the ranking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the original sponsor of this bill, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

I cannot think of a more important statement and act on the vast expanse of African American history. The 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act, as has been offered by Mr. SCOTT, is giving one of the most authoritative and widely needed reviews of African American history. It is extensive; it is detailed; and it is distinct.

Specifically, I come from the region called Texas and the Gulf States. In particular, as relates to the Emancipation Proclamation, we commemorate something called Juneteenth. That means that in 1863, we did not get the word that President Lincoln had freed the slaves. It came in 1865 when General Granger landed on the shores of Galveston. So we have this phenomenon called Juneteenth. It may not be an idea or a commemoration that is known all over.

And then, of course, the early stages of slavery. The vast differences in the regions on how slaves were held, the many places where African Americans participated in war and peace that may not be known, the science and scientific research that we have evidenced beyond the likes of Dr. George Washington Carver or the debate between

W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington on the pathways of African Americans. Certainly, we are well aware of the civil rights movement. Many believe they know their current history, but there are so many different nuances. And I imagine the commission of this particular legislation, this commission would go even far more deeply into African American history.

So let me say that this is a very important legislative initiative. I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for bringing it forward. And I will say that if this is signed by the President, America will be better for knowing the history of all people, and this commission will certainly be part of telling that very detailed, diverse, and different story of African Americans in the history of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask support of the bill.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank my colleagues for bearing with me while I am a little hoarse in doing this duty here tonight. I had a little bit too much screaming at our 4th of July festivities and parades in Philadelphia and Montgomery County yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I really admire—and I am not sure if it was done intentionally this way—the wisdom of the chairman and those who scheduled these two resolutions coming in tandem because I think they are both important, and I am enthusiastic about both of them.

It is impossible to tell the story of the United States of America without the enormous contributions and resilience shown by those who are the descendants of slaves who were brought here to our shores against their will.

I am, like many of us, the descendant of immigrants who came here willingly. Though they came here with nothing, at least they came here willingly. And of course that does not represent the entire American experience.

So I think that this is an important resolution. I commend my colleague from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) as well as Senators TIM Kaine and MARK WARNER for their championing of it. I am proud to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, again, let me echo the wide bipartisan support in favor of this bill.

I want to thank our ranking member, Mr. CUMMINGS. I want to thank Mr. BOYLE for his support in championing this through with our committee. And I particularly want to thank BOBBY SCOTT of Virginia, his representation of that area and is a pivotal voice in bringing this bill forward. I am glad to be supportive of this bill, and I would urge my colleagues to also support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4539, 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.

□ 2115

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1252) to authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1252

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 “Global Food Security Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (referred to in this section as the “FAO”), 805,000,000 people worldwide suffer from chronic hunger. Hunger and malnutrition rob people of health and productive lives and stunt the mental and physical development of future generations.

(2) According to the January 2014 “Worldwide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community”—

(A) the “[l]ack of adequate food will be a destabilizing factor in countries important to US national security that do not have the financial or technical abilities to solve their internal food security problems”; and

(B) “[f]ood and nutrition insecurity in weakly governed countries might also provide opportunities for insurgent groups to capitalize on poor conditions, exploit international food aid, and discredit governments for their inability to address basic needs”.

(3) A comprehensive approach to sustainable food and nutrition security should not only respond to emergency food shortages, but should also address malnutrition, resilience to food and nutrition insecurity, building the capacity of poor, rural populations to improve their agricultural productivity and incomes, removing institutional impediments to agricultural development, value chain access and efficiency, including processing and storage, enhancing agribusiness development, access to markets and activities that address the specific needs and barriers facing women and small-scale producers, education, and collaborative research.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY OBJECTIVES; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY OBJECTIVES.—It is in the national interest of the United

States to promote global food security, resilience, and nutrition, consistent with national food security investment plans, which is reinforced through programs, activities, and initiatives that—

(1) place food insecure countries on a path toward self-sufficiency and economic freedom through the coordination of United States foreign assistance programs;

(2) accelerate inclusive, agricultural-led economic growth that reduces global poverty, hunger, and malnutrition, particularly among women and children;

(3) increase the productivity, incomes, and livelihoods of small-scale producers, especially women, by working across agricultural value chains, enhancing local capacity to manage agricultural resources effectively and expanding producer access to local and international markets;

(4) build resilience to food shocks among vulnerable populations and households while reducing reliance upon emergency food assistance;

(5) create an enabling environment for agricultural growth and investment, including through the promotion of secure and transparent property rights;

(6) improve the nutritional status of women and children, with a focus on reducing child stunting, including through the promotion of highly nutritious foods, diet diversification, and nutritional behaviors that improve maternal and child health;

(7) demonstrably meet, align with and leverage broader United States strategies and investments in trade, economic growth, national security, science and technology, agriculture research and extension, maternal and child health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene;

(8) continue to strengthen partnerships between United States-based universities, including land-grant colleges, and universities and institutions in target countries and communities that build agricultural capacity; and

(9) ensure the effective use of United States taxpayer dollars to further these objectives.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the President, in providing assistance to implement the Global Food Security Strategy, should—

(1) coordinate, through a whole-of-government approach, the efforts of relevant Federal departments and agencies to implement the Global Food Security Strategy;

(2) seek to fully utilize the unique capabilities of each relevant Federal department and agency while collaborating with and leveraging the contributions of other key stakeholders; and

(3) utilize open and streamlined solicitations to allow for the participation of a wide range of implementing partners through the most appropriate procurement mechanisms, which may include grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other instruments as necessary and appropriate.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.