

for purposes of paragraph (1)(B), except that such regulations shall limit the period for such a subscription to not longer than one year.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect January 1, 2017.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) 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 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 Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 5384, the Federal Register Printing Savings Act of 2016, introduced by my colleague on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL).

This commonsense legislation will help curb government waste.

The Federal Register is aptly described as the official newspaper of the Federal Government. Its daily editions include copies of proposed and final regulations, requests for comment, executive orders, and information concerning other government activities.

Today, virtually every Member of Congress, the White House, and many Federal agencies receive printed copies of the Federal Register. It is important to note that Members of Congress do not proactively request, or pay for this service. However, for the public, an annual subscription costs \$929 annually.

In the days before the Internet, this paper-based service brought great value to Members, agencies, and the White House, allowing them to keep track of activity across the government. Today, though, the full Federal Register is available online in a completely searchable and downloadable format. As a result, offices on Capitol Hill and across the government throw away the paper version every morning, often unopened, resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars of waste.

This legislation, H.R. 5384, would change this dynamic by banning automatic subscriptions to the Federal Register by the Federal Government. Instead, Members of Congress and offices across the Federal Government who still want to receive printed copies would be required to request individual copies, or an annual subscription.

This is a simple, good government piece of legislation that will save the American taxpayer potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars every year.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, Washington, DC, November 29, 2016.

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER, Chairman, Committee on House Administration, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRMAN: On November 16, 2016, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered reported without amendment H.R. 5384, the Federal Register Printing Savings Act of 2016. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, with an additional referral to the Committee on House Administration.

I ask that you allow the Committee on House Administration to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on House Administration represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, Washington, DC, November 29, 2016.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ, Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5384. As you know, the bill was received in the House of Representatives on June 3, 2016, and referred primarily to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and in addition to the Committee on the Committee on House Administration. The bill seeks to restrict the distribution of free printed copies of the Federal Register to Members of Congress and other officers and employees of the United States. On November 16, 2016 your Committee ordered H.R. 5384 to be reported without amendment.

I realize that discharging the Committee on House Administration from further consideration of H.R. 5384 will serve in the best interest of the House of Representatives and agree to do so. It is the understanding of the Committee on House Administration that forgoing action on H.R. 5384 will not prejudice the Committee with respect to appointment of conferees or any future jurisdictional claim. I request that your letter and this response be included in the bill report filed by your Committee, as well as in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5384, the Federal Register Printing Savings Act of 2016. I agree with the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Gosar) that this is a commonsense, good government bill about cutting waste.

This bill would allow the Government Publishing Office to avoid send-

ing printed copies of the Federal Register to Members of Congress and other Federal offices, unless those offices actually want the printed copies. Of course, the Federal Register would continue to be available online.

This bill would be good for the environment and good for taxpayers. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that this bill would save about \$1 million a year.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5384.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the bill.

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. 5384.

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.

□ 1600

FEDERAL AGENCY MAIL MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6009) to ensure the effective processing of mail by Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6009

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 “Federal Agency Mail Management Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. RECORD MANAGEMENT.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 9 of the Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014 (44 U.S.C. 101 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) in paragraph (7), by striking ‘the Administrator or the Archivist’ and inserting ‘the Archivist or the Administrator’.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) The Archivist shall provide guidance and assistance to Federal agencies with respect to ensuring—

“(1) economical and effective records management;

“(2) adequate and proper documentation of the policies and transactions of the Federal Government; and

“(3) proper records disposition.”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1), the following new paragraph:

“(2) in subsection (b), by striking ‘effective records management by such agencies’ and inserting ‘effective processing of mail by Federal agencies’.”;

(D) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “subsections (a) and (b)” and inserting “subsection (a)”;

and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(E) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(F) by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) by inserting at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) The Administrator, in carrying out subsection (b), shall have the responsibility to promote economy and efficiency in the selection and utilization of space, staff, equipment, and supplies for processing mail at Federal facilities.”

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and” at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) by inserting at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) The Administrator (or the Administrator’s designee) may inspect the mail processing practices and programs of any Federal agency for the purpose of rendering recommendations for the improvement of mail processing practices and programs. Officers and employees of such agencies shall cooperate fully in such inspections of mail processing practices and programs.”

(4) by striking subsection (f); and

(5) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (f).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014 (Public Law 113–187).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) 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 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 Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 6009, the Federal Agency Mail Management Act of 2016, introduced by my colleague on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Representative STEVE RUSSELL of Oklahoma.

This legislation is intended to make a bipartisan technical correction to the Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014, enacted as Public Law 113–187.

Among the provisions of that bipartisan law was language designed to eliminate outdated references to the General Services Administration, or GSA, relating to records management. These changes updated outdated references from a time period when the National Archives was a part of the GSA. Since the National Archives became independent in 1984, these house-

keeping changes were long overdue. However, after the bill was enacted, the GSA and the Archives realized that the GSA had relied upon the now altered provisions for its oversight and management authority for Federal agency mail processing and management, which is a function that had not previously been transferred to the Archives. It was never the intent of the Congress to transfer this function.

The Archives and the GSA have been working closely together to ensure the law is being appropriately followed, but both agencies support clarification that this responsibility is properly the GSA’s. This legislation provides that exact clarification. Specifically, the bill makes technical corrections to the 2014 law to carve out the responsibility for mailroom management from records management to ensure that the former is properly the GSA’s duty and that the latter is the Archives’.

I believe this is a commonsense, good-government bill, and I am pleased to see that my colleague Representative Gerald Connolly is a cosponsor. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I hope it will move quickly through the legislative process so that we can properly resolve any lingering uncertainty that has been created regarding Federal mail management.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I support this bipartisan bill, which simply makes a technical correction to clarify that the Administrator of the General Services Administration is responsible for managing mail in the executive branch.

The Administrator of the GSA has historically had this responsibility. When the Federal Records Act was updated in 2014, changes made to the statute made it unclear whether the Administrator’s role had changed. This bill makes clear that Congress never intended to take away the GSA Administrator’s authority to manage the executive mail.

In closing, I would like to especially thank Representative STEVE RUSSELL from Oklahoma and Representative GERRY CONNOLLY from Virginia for their excellent work that they put into this legislation, and I hope that the Senate will take it up before the end of this Congress.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). 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. 6009.

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.

FOLLOW THE RULES ACT

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6186) to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend certain protections against prohibited personnel practices, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6186

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 “Follow the Rules Act”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITED PERSONNEL ACTION BASED ON ORDERING INDIVIDUAL TO VIOLENCE RULE OR REGULATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (D) of section 2302(b)(9) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, rule, or regulation” after “law”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Such subparagraph is further amended by striking “for”.

(c) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any personnel action (as that term is defined in section 2302(a)(2)(A) of such title) occurring after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) 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 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 Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 6186, the Follow the Rules Act, introduced by Representative SEAN DUFFY. This legislation reiterates Congress’ intent that whistleblower protections be broadly construed.

Whistleblowers are the best source of information about waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal Government. We should do all we can to protect them. Under the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989, a whistleblower is protected for disclosing violations of laws, rules, or regulations; yet a recent opinion by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit would limit the scope of those protections. The Federal Circuit held that Federal employees are not protected if they refuse to violate a rule or a regulation. This would mean whistleblowers could be ordered to violate the same rule or regulation whose violation they blew the whistle on. If they refuse, they could be retaliated against, such as being demoted or even fired.

In the case heard by the Federal Circuit, Dr. Timothy Allen Rainey, a contracting officer at the Department of