

ELECTING CERTAIN MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1072

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: Mr. Balderson.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr. Green of Tennessee.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY: Mr. Garcia of California.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Mr. Stauber.

Ms. CHENEY (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATIONS OUTREACH MEDIA AND MAIL STANDARDS ACT

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration, the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the Committee on Rules be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 7512) to rename the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards as the House Communications Standards Commission, to extend the authority of the Commission to regulate mass mailings of Members and Member-elect of the House of Representatives to all unsolicited mass communications of Members and Members-elect of the House, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SPANBERGER). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7512

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 “Communications Outreach Media and Mail Standards Act” or the “COMMS Act”.

SEC. 2. RENAMING HOUSE COMMISSION ON CONGRESSIONAL MAILING STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(a) of the Act entitled “An Act to amend title 39, United States Code, to clarify the proper use of the franking privilege by Members of Congress, and for other purposes”, approved December

18, 1973 (2 U.S.C. 501(a)), is amended by striking “House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards” and inserting “House Communications Standards Commission”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TITLE 39.—Title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking “House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards” and inserting “House Communications Standards Commission” each place it appears in the following sections:

(A) Section 3210(a)(5), (a)(6)(D), (b)(3), (d)(5), and (d)(6)(A).

(B) Section 3216(e)(1) and (e)(2).

(C) Section 3220(b).

(2) OTHER PROVISIONS.—Section 311 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1991 (2 U.S.C. 503) is amended by striking “House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards” and inserting “House Communications Standards Commission” each place it appears in subsections (a)(3), (e)(1)(B), and (f).

(c) REFERENCES IN OTHER DOCUMENTS.—Any reference in any rule, regulation, or other document to the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards shall be deemed to be a reference to the House Communications Standards Commission.

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF COMMISSION OVER OFFICIAL MASS COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE REGARDING DISSEMINATION OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(d) of the Act entitled “An Act to amend title 39, United States Code, to clarify the proper use of the franking privilege by Members of Congress, and for other purposes”, approved December 18, 1973 (2 U.S.C. 501(d)), is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “The Commission” and inserting “(1) The Commission”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) In addition to the guidance, assistance, advice, and counsel described in paragraph (1), the Commission shall provide—

“(A) guidance, assistance, advice, and counsel, through advisory opinions or consultations, in connection with any law and with any rule or regulation of the House of Representatives governing the dissemination of mass communications other than franked mail; and

“(B) guidance, assistance, advice, and counsel in connection with any law and with any rule or regulation of the House of Representatives governing the official content of other official communications of any quantity, whether solicited or unsolicited.”.

(2) AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS.—Section 5(e) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 501(e)) is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “Any complaint” and all that follows through “is about to occur” and inserting the following: “Any complaint that a violation of any provision of law or any rule or regulation of the House of Representatives to which subsection (d) applies is about to occur”; and

(B) in the sentence beginning with “Notwithstanding any other provision of law”, by striking “a violation of the franking laws or an abuse of the franking privilege by any person listed under subsection (d) of this section as entitled to send mail as franked mail,” and inserting “a violation of any provision of law or any rule or regulation of the House of Representatives to which subsection (d) applies.”.

(3) MASS COMMUNICATION DEFINED.—Section 5 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 501) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) In this section, the term ‘mass communication’ means a mass mailing described in section 3210(a)(6)(E) of title 39, United

States Code, or any other unsolicited communication of substantially identical content which is transmitted to 500 or more persons in a session of Congress, as provided under regulations of the Commission, except that such term does not include—

“(1) any communication from an individual described in subsection (d) to another individual described in subsection (d), a Senator, or any Federal, State, local, or Tribal government official;

“(2) any news release to the communications media;

“(3) any such mass mailing or unsolicited communication made in direct response to a communication from a person to whom the mass mailing or unsolicited communication was transmitted; or

“(4) in the case of any such unsolicited communication which is transmitted in a digital format, a communication for which the cost of the content is less than a threshold amount established under regulations of the House Communications Standards Commission.”.

(b) AUTHORITY TO REVIEW ALL UNSOLICITED MASS COMMUNICATIONS.

(1) REQUIRING REVIEW BEFORE DISSEMINATION.—Section 311(f) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1991 (2 U.S.C. 503(f)) is amended—

(A) by striking “any mass mailing” and inserting “any mass communication”;

(B) by striking “mail matter” and inserting “matter”; and

(C) by striking “such proposed mailing” and inserting “such proposed communication”.

(2) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS.—Section 311(f) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 503(f)) is amended—

(A) by striking “A Member” and inserting “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a Member”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply in the case of any type of mass communication which is designated as exempt from the requirements of such paragraph as provided under regulations of the House Communications Standards Commission.”.

(3) DEFINITION.—Section 311(g) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 503(g)) is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (1);

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

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

“(3) the term ‘mass communication’ means a mass mailing described in section 3210(a)(6)(E) of title 39, United States Code, or any other unsolicited communication of substantially identical content which is transmitted to 500 or more persons in a session of Congress, as provided under regulations of the House Communications Standards Commission, except that such term does not include—

“(A) any communication from a Member of the House of Representatives to another Member of the House of Representatives, a Senator, or any Federal, State, or local government official;

“(B) any news release to the communications media;

“(C) any such mass mailing or unsolicited communication made in direct response to a communication from a person to whom the mass mailing or unsolicited communication was transmitted; or

“(D) in the case of any such unsolicited communication which is transmitted in a digital format, a communication for which the cost of the content is less than a threshold amount established under regulations of the House Communications Standards Commission.”.

the House Communications Standards Commission.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Clause 9 of rule XXIV of the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by inserting after “that session,” the following: “or any other unsolicited communication of substantially identical content which is transmitted to 500 or more persons in that session or, in the case of a digital communication of substantially identical content, which is disseminated at a cost exceeding a designated amount, as provided under regulations of the House Communications Standards Commission.”.

SEC. 4. REVISION TO MASS MAILING NOTICE ON TAXPAYER FUNDING.

Section 311(a) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1997 (2 U.S.C. 506(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(a) Each mass mailing” and inserting “(a)(1) Each mass mailing”;

(2) by striking “the following notice;” and all that follows through “or a notice” and inserting “one of the notices described in paragraph (2) or a notice”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The notices described in this paragraph are as follows:

“(A) ‘Paid for with official funds from the office of _____’, with the blank filled in with the name of the Member sending the mailing.

“(B) ‘Paid for by the funds authorized by the House of Representatives for District of _____’, with the first blank filled in with the name of the congressional district number, and the second blank filled in with the name of the State, of the Member sending the mailing.

“(C) ‘Paid for by official funds authorized by the House of Representatives.’.”.

SEC. 5. REVISIONS TO RESTRICTIONS ON MAIL MATTER CONSIDERED FRANKABLE.

(a) EXPRESSIONS OF CONGRATULATIONS.—Section 3210(a)(3)(F) of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking “to a person who has achieved some public distinction”.

(b) BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION RELATED TO OFFICIAL AND REPRESENTATIONAL DUTIES.—Section 3210(a)(3)(I) of such title is amended by striking “publication or in response to a specific request therefor” and inserting the following: “publication, in response to a specific request therefor, or which relates to the Member’s or Member-elect’s official and representational duties.”.

(c) PHOTOS AND LIKENESSES INCLUDED IN NEWSLETTERS OR GENERAL MASS MAILINGS.—Section 3210(a)(3) of such title is amended—

(1) by adding “or” at the end of subparagraph (H);

(2) in subparagraph (I), by striking “; or” and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking subparagraph (J).

(d) CLARIFICATION OF ABILITY OF MEMBERS TO USE FRANKED MAIL TO SEND PERSONAL MESSAGES TO CONSTITUENTS.—Section 3210(a)(4) of such title is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “, except that nothing in this paragraph may be construed to prohibit the use of the franking privilege for the transmission of matter which is purely personal to a recipient who is a constituent of a Member of Congress and which is related to the official business, activities, and duties of the Member.”.

(e) HOLIDAY CARDS.—Section 3210(a)(5)(B)(iii) of such title is amended by striking “holiday greetings” and inserting “religious holiday greetings”.

(f) UNIFORM BLACKOUT PERIOD FOR ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—

(1) UNIFORM PERIOD.—Section 3210(a)(6)(A) of such title is amended—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “(or, in the case of a Member of the House, fewer than 90 days)”; and

(B) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “90 days” and inserting “60 days”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2020 and each succeeding election for public office.

(g) NONAPPLICATION OF BLACKOUT PERIOD TO PARTY NOMINATING CONVENTIONS OR CAUCUSES.—Section 3210(a)(6) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘primary election’ does not include a convention or caucus of a political party which has authority to nominate a candidate.”.

(h) INFORMATION ON CERTAIN MATTERS.—Section 3210(a)(6)(E) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of clause (ii);

(2) by striking the period at the end of clause (iii) and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iv) providing information exclusively on competitions which are officially sanctioned by the House of Representatives or Senate, nominations to military service academies, official employment listings for positions in the House of Representatives (including listings for positions in the Wounded Warrior Program or the Gold Star Family Fellowship Program), or natural disasters or other threats to public health and life safety.”.

SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as provided in section 5(f)(2), this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to communications disseminated on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE PRINTING OF A REVISED AND UPDATED VERSION OF THE HOUSE DOCUMENT ENTITLED “WOMEN IN CONGRESS, 1917–2006”

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 92, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 92

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. PRINTING OF REVISED VERSION OF “WOMEN IN CONGRESS, 1917–2006”.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An updated version of House Document 108-223, entitled “Women in Congress, 1917–2006” (as revised by the Library of Congress), shall be printed as a House document by the Public Printer, with illustrations and suitable binding, under the

direction of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives.

(b) NUMBER OF COPIES.—In addition to the usual number, there shall be printed such number of copies of the document referred to in subsection (a) as does not exceed a total production and printing cost of \$500,000, of which—

(1) 80 percent shall be for the use of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives; and

(2) 20 percent shall be for the use of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL M. LYNTON AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 87) providing for the reappointment of Michael M. Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 87

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the expiration of the term of Michael M. Lynton of California is filled by the reappointment of the incumbent. The reappointment is for a term of 6 years, beginning on the later of September 29, 2020, or the date of the enactment of this joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING DEACON WILLIAM FRANCIS XAVIER KANE

Mr. MOULTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate Deacon William Francis Xavier Kane.

Deacon Kane served as an Army intelligence officer in Vietnam. He received a Bronze Star and the Soldier’s Medal for Heroism in the war.

When he came home, he became an FBI special agent; and after a long career, he went to seminary school and