

After Congress enacted the Regulatory Flexibility Act, some evidence suggests that fellow agencies seriously undertook the policy of reducing the regulatory burden on small businesses, but evidence shows that the burden on small businesses continues to increase.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we are here. That burden continues to increase. What happens then is the cost of goods and services increase and are passed on to customers, customers who are our constituents who sent us here to do something about the high prices that they pay.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to support the rule and the underlying pieces of legislation. These bills solve critical issues facing our country today. They are thoughtfully drafted and worthy of bipartisan support.

I thank the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on the Judiciary for their work on these bills. I urge a strong showing of support in this body.

Now, I will comment briefly on the ranking member's issue with the waiver provided in the rule before I yield back. I understand his role is to find shortcomings in what the Rules Committee produces. He is good at that. He does a fine job of that, but he also tends to have a very short memory of when he held the gavel. I will remind the ranking member that when he had the gavel, his committee waived paygo 25 times, which is more than the majority by several factors.

I am proud of the work we have done on the committee, even with the challenges that the ranking member can appreciate. Again, I urge this body to support this rule and support the underlying legislation.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1602 OFFERED BY
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 12) to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 12.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. 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 question will be postponed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 4, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 4, 2024, at 11:23 a.m.

That the Senate passed S. 1956.
That the Senate passed S. 2514.
That the Senate passed S. 3277.
That the Senate passed S. 4107.
That the Senate passed S. 4243.
That the Senate passed S. 4569.
That the Senate passed S. 5355.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5536.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7764.

Appointment:
Co-Chairperson of the Commission on the Future of the Navy
With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

REVEREND HAROLD MIDDLEBROOK
POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9360) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Macedonia Lane in Knoxville, Tennessee, as the "Reverend Harold Middlebrook Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9360

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

SECTION 1. REVEREND HAROLD MIDDLEBROOK
POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300

Macedonia Lane in Knoxville, Tennessee, shall be known and designated as the "Reverend Harold Middlebrook Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Reverend Harold Middlebrook Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURCHETT. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a post office I hope we can name in honor of Reverend Harold Middlebrook. He is a well-known figure in our community and a civil rights leader. He was a close friend of Dr. Martin Luther King. As a matter of fact, he was part of the Memphis Sanitation worker strike in Memphis, Tennessee. He was arrested multiple times for alleged violations, but as we know, those weren't real violations. He was exhibiting his constitutional right. He was at the Lorraine Motel when King was assassinated.

In 1986, he founded the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission in Knoxville. For the record, every year they have the march, it is the coldest day in Knoxville. I always remember that because it is always cold.

Dr. Middlebrook has been a dear friend. I will say for the record that he has never voted for me, and he probably never will vote for me, but he is still my dear friend.

When I was mayor, I had him come to speak to the kids in my office, and we took him to lunch. I wanted them to know what they endured during the civil rights movement and what this country endured. I think it is more important than seeing it in black and white on TV or reading it in a magazine, but to hear it and see it from his eyes.

He spent his whole life befriending and mentoring folks in our community. He has been a dear friend to me and our Knoxville community, and he is a pretty dignified guy.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can pass this, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of H.R. 9360 for two reasons. One is the reason of process, which is,

as I understand it, the unanimous support of the Tennessee congressional delegation, which has always been the process threshold for these bills. Secondly, because of the substance.

Harold Middlebrook was born in Memphis, as my distinguished colleague, Mr. BURCHETT, tells us. He went to Morehouse and became involved as a college student in the civil rights movement. He was active both with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

At SNCC, he participated with Bob Moses and Ivanhoe Donaldson and a number of the other activists in SNCC, which was the organization that went door to door registering people to vote at great risk to life and limb.

They coined the expression “one person, one vote” later assimilated into the Supreme Court’s “one person, one vote” equal protection discourse in *Reynolds v. Sims* and *Wesberry v. Sanders*, but it started as a slogan of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

□ 1300

Reverend Middlebrook came to pastor churches in Memphis, Bolivar, and Knoxville. He founded the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission of Knoxville in honor of his late friend.

It is an honor to be able to rise in support of this legislation to create a post office that will be named in honor of Harold Middlebrook. I urge passage of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I am proud to support this bill to honor Reverend Harold Middlebrook.

I should have said in my notes earlier that there was an Urban League dinner, and Dr. Middlebrook, I thought, kind of had carried a heavy load his whole life. I remembered he was sitting off to the side. I was mayor of the county, and they asked me to come sit at the head table with all the, I guess, leaders.

Dr. Middlebrook was not at that table. My wife and I sat over at the side with Harold Middlebrook because I told him: You run with the ones that bring you, Preacher. He laughed and smiled. He told us great stories all night. I meant to say that, and I apologize.

I am proud to support this bill to honor my dear friend, Reverend Harold Middlebrook, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9360.

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.

FEDERAL AGENCY PERFORMANCE ACT OF 2024

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 709) to improve performance and accountability in the Federal Government, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 709

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 Performance Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF STRATEGIC REVIEWS AND REPORTING.

(a) STRATEGIC REVIEWS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1121 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking the section heading and inserting “**Progress reviews and use of performance information**”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) AGENCY REVIEWS OF PROGRESS TOWARDS STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.—

“(1) COVERED GOAL DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘covered goal’ means a goal or objective established in the strategic plan of the agency under section 306(a) of title 5.

“(2) REVIEW.—Not less frequently than annually and consistent with guidance issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the head and Chief Operating Officer of each agency, shall—

“(A) for each covered goal, review with the appropriate agency official responsible for the covered goal—

“(i) the progress achieved toward the covered goal—

“(I) during the most recent fiscal year; or

“(II) from recent sources of evidence available at the time of the review; and

“(ii) the likelihood that the agency will achieve the covered goal;

“(B) coordinate with relevant personnel within and outside the agency who contribute to the accomplishment of each covered goal;

“(C) assess progress toward each covered goal by reviewing performance information and other types of evidence relating to each covered goal, such as program evaluations and statistical data;

“(D) identify whether additional evidence is necessary to better assess progress toward each covered goal, and prioritize the development of the evidence described in subparagraph (C), such as through the plans required under section 312 of title 5, if applicable;

“(E) assess whether relevant organizations, program activities, regulations, policies, and other activities contribute as planned to each covered goal;

“(F) as appropriate, leverage the assessment performed under subparagraph (E) as part of the portfolio reviews required under section 503(c)(1)(G);

“(G) identify any risks or impediments that would reduce or otherwise decrease the likelihood that the agency will achieve the covered goal; and

“(H) for each covered goal at greatest risk of not being achieved, identify prospects and strategies for performance improvement, including any necessary changes to program activities, regulations, policies, or other activities of the agency.

“(3) SUPPORT.—In fulfilling the requirements of paragraph (2), the head and Chief Operating Officer of each agency shall be supported by—

“(A) the Performance Improvement Officer of the agency;

“(B) as appropriate, the Chief Data Officer, Evaluation Officer, Program Management Improvement Officer, and Statistical Official of the agency; and

“(C) any other senior agency official designated by the head of the agency, the sustained involvement of whom may help the agency increase the likelihood of achieving 1 or more covered goals.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1121 and inserting the following:

“1121. Progress reviews and use of performance information..”.

(b) SUMMARY REQUIRED.—Section 1116 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (6)(E), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) include a summary of the findings of the review of the agency under section 1121(c).”; and

(2) by striking subsections (f) through (i).

SEC. 3. REVISIONS TO THE FEDERAL PERFORMANCE WEBSITE.

Section 1122 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by inserting “required to be included on the single website under subparagraph (A) and the information”; before “in the program inventory”; and

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) ensure that the website described in subparagraph (A) conforms with the requirements for websites under section 3(a) of the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 note).”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) archive and preserve—

“(i) the information included in the program inventory required under paragraph (2)(B), including the information described in paragraph (3), after the end of the period during which that information is made available; and

“(ii) the information included in the single website under paragraph (2)(A) in accordance with subsections (b) and (c) after the end of the period during which such information is made available on the website; and”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) the results achieved toward the agency priority goals established under section 1120(b)—

“(A) during the most recent quarter and overall trend data for each quarter compared to the planned level of performance; and

“(B) at the end of the 2-year agency priority goal period compared to the overall planned level of performance;”; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) the results achieved toward the priority goals developed under section 1120(a)(1)—

“(A) during the most recent quarter and overall trend data for each quarter compared to the planned level of performance; and

“(B) at the end of the 4-year Federal Government priority goal period compared to the overall planned level of performance;”.