

(B) take reasonable action to ensure Facility Security Committee responsiveness under paragraph (1).

(C) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that, for the fiscal year preceding the report, includes—

(A) a summary of the security recommendations issued by the Federal Protective Service to Facility Security Committees to improve facility security;

(B) the percentage of recommendations described in subparagraph (A) that were accepted and the percentage of such recommendations that were rejected;

(C) the percentage of Facility Security Committees that failed to respond to a recommendation described in subparagraph (A) in a timely manner;

(D) a summary of justifications provided by Facility Security Committees if a Facility Security Committee rejected a recommendation described in subparagraph (A);

(E) a summary of the financial implications of Facility Security Committee responses to recommendations described in subparagraph (A), including if the benefits outweigh the costs;

(F) an analysis of steps taken by Facility Security Committees to mitigate the risk posed by rejecting a recommendation described in subparagraph (A); and

(G) an analysis of any trends found among the findings in the report.

(2) FORM.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(3) BRIEFING.—The Secretary shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on an annual basis on the findings of the most recently submitted report under paragraph (1).

(d) REPORT ON SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives an unredacted report on—

(1) all surveillance technology recommended by the Federal Protective Service; and

(2) any intended use of the technology described in paragraph (1).

(e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

(f) SUNSET AND REPORT.—

(1) SUNSET.—This Act shall cease to be effective on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of this Act.

(g) APPLICATION.—This Act shall only apply to—

(1) General Services Administration facilities under protection of the Federal Protective Service; and

(2) non-General Services Administration facilities that pay fees to the Federal Protective Service for protection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. 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 S. 3613.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 3613, the Improving Federal Building Security Act of 2024, will strengthen security of Federal buildings by ensuring agencies are held accountable for the security decisions they make.

Specifically, the legislation would require Federal agencies to respond to security recommendations of the Federal Protective Service and provide a justification for recommendations that are not implemented.

Given the ongoing security challenges identified by the Government Accountability Office at a Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing in July, this bill will improve security for those who work in or visit Federal buildings across the Nation.

I thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL) for his work on the House companion to this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this bill, which will improve security for Federal employees and the members of the public who visit Federal buildings. Federal facilities face a wide range of threats, including active shooters, cyberattacks, hostile surveillance, and explosive devices.

While the Federal Protective Service, or FPS, currently makes safety recommendations for Federal offices and buildings, the tenant agencies in those buildings often disregard FPS recommendations.

The Government Accountability Office of the GAO reported that between fiscal years 2017 and 2021, tenant agencies ignored about 57 percent of these recommendations. S. 3613 will ensure Federal agencies are following the most up-to-date security recommendations to protect these facilities and the people in them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this bill will ensure that Federal agencies are following the most up-to-date security recommendations to protect their facilities and people in them.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, Federal agencies need to be held accountable for the security decisions they make at Federal office buildings. This bill will help achieve that. By creating safer, more secure workplaces, we can ensure Federal workers can easily return to work in person.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee favorably reported the House companion. I urge support of S. 3613, so this legislation can be signed into law and we can improve the safety of our Federal workers.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make note, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL), a longtime law enforcement officer, was key in pushing the House bill and fully supports this. Again, I urge adoption, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BACON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3613.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. 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 motion will be postponed.

□ 1500

DISASTER CONTRACT IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 310) to establish an advisory group to encourage and foster collaborative efforts among individuals and entities engaged in disaster recovery relating to debris removal, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 310

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 “Disaster Contract Improvement Act”.

SEC. 2. OVERSIGHT ON DEBRIS REMOVAL.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) DEBRIS REMOVAL PROGRAM.—The term “debris removal program” means the program established under section 407 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5173).

(b) ADVISORY WORKING GROUP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish an advisory working group to encourage and foster collaborative efforts among individuals and entities engaged in disaster recovery relating to debris removal.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The advisory working group established under paragraph (1) shall be comprised of—

(A) representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(B) representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers;

(C) representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture;

(D) representatives of States, Tribal governments, and units of local government; and

(E) subject matter experts in debris removal, including not less than 1 representative from the debris services contractor industry.

(c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the advisory working group established under subsection (b)(1), shall—

(1) determine whether guidance and procedures in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act with respect to the oversight and cost of debris removal contracts entered into under the debris removal program are sufficient; and

(2) if the Administrator, in consultation with the advisory working group established under subsection (b)(1), determines that the guidance and procedures described in paragraph (1) are insufficient, develop and implement additional such guidance and procedures, including—

(A) a requirement that each State, Tribal government, and unit of local government receiving a grant under the debris removal program take the primary role in the oversight function of debris removal;

(B) guidance for State, Tribal, and local debris monitors relating to debris removal operations, debris operations oversight, and contractor oversight, including contractor monitoring;

(C) guidance for streamlining the reimbursement of debris costs overall, including debris management planning and support for resilience in debris removal operations;

(D) checklists, job aids, eligibility requirements, contract requirements, debris management planning guidance, sample bids, and other items, as determined necessary by the Administrator, for State and local debris monitors;

(E) a list of the specific debris removal monitoring responsibilities expected to be completed by a State that receives a grant under the debris removal program;

(F) a list of the specific debris removal monitoring responsibilities expected to be completed by recipients of a grant under the debris removal program; and

(G) guidance for State and Tribal governments and units of local government to reduce duplication and inefficiency in debris removal contracting across the Federal Government, State and Tribal governments, and units of local government.

(d) TRAINING.—The Administrator shall conduct outreach to States, Tribal governments, and units of local government with respect to any guidance or support materials developed under this section.

(e) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that—

(1) studies the use and adoption rate of advance contracts for debris removal by selected States, Tribal governments, and units of local government;

(2) identifies the benefits and challenges of advance contracts for debris removal;

(3) with respect to the reporting and information sharing processes, as of the date of enactment of this Act, for advance contracts for debris removal between States and units of local government and Federal partners—

(A) assesses those processes; and

(B) makes any necessary recommendations for those processes;

(4) studies—

(A) the process for setting Federal reimbursement rates for the debris removal program;

(B) the use of penalties, as of the date of enactment of this Act, for violations of law and regulations relating to debris removal; and

(C) fraud, waste, and abuse relating to the debris removal program, including case studies; and

(5) makes any necessary recommendations for improvements to oversight and fraud prevention across the debris removal program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 310.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 310, the Disaster Contract Improvement Act, aims to help improve the disaster contracting process by directing the Administrator of FEMA to establish a working group to examine the debris removal process. The working group will include representatives from FEMA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service, officials from State, Tribal, and local governments, and subject matter experts.

The legislation also directs the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study on the debris removal advance contracting process.

I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA) for his work on the House companion bill to help reduce waste, fraud, and abuse within the post-disaster services area.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 310. This bill directs the Administrator of FEMA to convene an advisory group to improve debris removal contract processes and reduce costs.

When disasters strike, resulting rubble and debris leave affected commu-

nities with an expensive cleanup. FEMA assistance is an essential resource for helping communities recover, but the disaster contracting process can be inefficient and costly.

This bill brings stakeholders together to improve the disaster contracting process, maximizing the impact of Federal dollars and speeding disaster recovery.

Mr. Speaker, clearing debris after a disaster is one of the first steps to a successful recovery. This bill would direct the Administrator of FEMA to convene a stakeholder group to improve the agency's disaster contracting processes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, the Disaster Contract Improvement Act will help improve the debris removal process following disasters and help to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of hurricanes and other disasters, I have personally witnessed absolutely obscene rates and extraordinary timeframes for debris removal in the aftermath of disasters, watching as multiple layers of profiting from 1 cubic yard of debris material that is removed.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee favorably reported the House companion to this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of S. 310 so we can get this important legislation signed into law, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 310.

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.

WEATHER ALERT RESPONSE AND NOTIFICATION ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2892) to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effectiveness of local alerting systems, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2892

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 "Weather Alert Response and Notification Act" or the "WARN Act".

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL ALERTING SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the