

that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SECURING THE CITIES IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1374) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make improvements to the Securing the Cities program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1374

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 “Securing the Cities Improvement Act”.

SEC. 2. STC PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY, METRICS, AND CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.

Section 1928 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 596b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “high-risk urban areas” and inserting “jurisdictions designated under subsection (c)”;

(2) by amending paragraph (7) of subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(7) establish performance metrics and milestones for the STC program, monitor expenditures for the program, and track the performance against program metrics and milestones; and”;

(3) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “from among high-risk urban areas under section 2003” and inserting “based on the capability and capacity of the jurisdiction relating to preparedness and response, as well as the relative threat to such jurisdiction, vulnerability of such jurisdiction, and consequences for such jurisdiction, regarding terrorist attacks and other high-consequence events utilizing nuclear or other radiological materials”;

(4) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report regarding participation in the STC program, the establishment of metrics and milestones for the STC program, performance against such metrics and milestones, and plans for any changes to the STC program.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1374.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1374, the Securing the Cities Improvement Act.

Since the inception of DHS’ Securing the Cities program, uncertainty about standards to qualify as a high-risk area and metrics necessary to remain in the program once admitted have been unclear. This bill will direct DHS to establish appropriate performance metrics and milestones.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CARTER from Louisiana for his work on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are here today to consider Representative CARTER’s bill, H.R. 1374, the Securing the Cities Improvement Act, or STC. This bill is essential for enhancing cities’ security against nuclear and radiological threats.

The STC program was created by the Department of Homeland Security in 2007. It began as a pilot program in high-risk cities to detect nuclear and radiological threats. Since then, it has expanded to include additional cities, offering equipment, training, technological support, and program guidance.

The program supports major events by ensuring cities are prepared for potential threats. However, its reliance on the annual Urban Area Security Initiative, or UASI, designations creates uncertainty for local governments, as the designated high-risk areas can change, and they usually do.

This bill aims to improve the program’s stability and strengthen partnerships with at-risk cities by allowing the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office to select STC cities based on their preparedness capabilities rather than UASI designations.

The bill, Mr. Speaker, also establishes performance metrics, enhances oversight of expenditures, and requires DHS to report to Congress on program participation and any further changes.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Representative CARTER’s leadership on this measure. I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 1374, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER), who is the author of this legislation.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CORREA for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Securing the Cities Improvement Act, a critical piece of legislation designed to help us build and maintain our Nation’s security capabilities.

Specifically, this bill provides participating cities with more reliable

guidance and support from the Department of Homeland Security’s Securing the Cities program, which seeks to reduce the risk of terrorist attacks in high-risk urban areas, like my hometown of New Orleans.

I want to specifically thank Ranking Member BENNIE THOMPSON and Congressman CLAY HIGGINS for their support and for cosponsoring this bill. I also thank LOU CORREA for managing the bill today and Chairman GREEN for his leadership, as well as the Homeland Security Committee staff, especially Lauren McClain, who tirelessly led us through this effort.

The need for this legislation has been tragically underscored by the recent terrorist attacks in the city of New Orleans on New Year’s Day, which claimed 15 lives and left dozens of others injured.

In the early hours of New Year’s Day, a 42-year-old U.S. citizen from Texas drove a rented Ford F-150 pickup truck into a crowd on Bourbon Street in the French Quarter neighborhood during the city’s New Year’s Eve celebration. After crashing, he exited the vehicle and engaged in a shootout with law enforcement before being fatally shot by courageous New Orleans police officers who rushed to the scene, putting themselves in harm’s way to protect our citizens, visitors, and guests.

Prior to the pickup truck’s attack, the terrorist planted two improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, concealed within coolers at separate locations along crowded Bourbon Street. These rudimentary pipe bombs were filled with shrapnel materials, such as nails, screws, and tacks, and were designed for remote detonation using a wireless device found in his vehicle. Luckily, he was not able to detonate these bombs and cause any further carnage.

An ISIS flag was found in the truck, and the FBI confirmed that ISIS had not coordinated with the attacker but, in fact, had inspired him.

This heinous and sick act of cowardice not only shattered the lives of victims and their families but also exposed vulnerabilities in our urban security infrastructure.

While the New Orleans attack did not involve radiological or nuclear materials, it serves as a grim reminder of the evolving tactics of terrorists and the potential for more catastrophic methods used. It also underscores why continued security investments in New Orleans and other highly targeted cities with programs like Securing the Cities are so crucial.

The Department of Homeland Security launched the Securing the Cities initiative in 2007 as a pilot program to assist the New York City metro area in detecting and preventing nuclear or radiological threats. The program has since expanded and currently provides 14 municipal governments nationwide, including the city of New Orleans, with detection equipment, training, exercise support, operational and technological expertise, and programmatic assistance, which makes a huge difference.

However, the program participation criteria has caused uncertainty and inconsistencies for cities that rely on this support. Eligibility for the program is currently restricted to high-risk urban areas as determined by FEMA under the Urban Area Security Initiative program, under which the composition of jurisdictions can vary from year to year. This eligibility criteria led to some jurisdictions being funded and supported by the Securing the Cities program in one year but not the next. The inconsistency has caused great harm.

This bill clears up the eligibility criteria for the program so that it can be a steady, reliable source of support for cities. It removes the statutory requirement restricting participation in the program to areas designated by FEMA. Instead, it requires Homeland Security's Office of Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction to decide which cities to partner with for the program based on the jurisdiction's capability and capacity to prepare and respond to terrorist attacks and other high-consequence events.

This legislation also sets performance metrics and goals for the Department of Homeland Security to report back to Congress.

Through these changes, the Securing the Cities Improvement Act offers a more targeted and effective approach to national security preparedness and response. It ensures that our cities that need support are reliably equipped with advanced detection technologies and will have the infrastructure and training to utilize them ready at hand.

Last Congress, this bill passed the House and the Senate's Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and I hope it will be signed into law this Congress.

Passing this legislation is a proactive step toward safeguarding our citizens from the unimaginable. By enhancing our detection and response capabilities, we deter adversaries from contemplating radiological or nuclear attacks and reassure the public that our commitment to their safety is sound, real, and committed.

In memory of the lives lost in New Orleans and in recognition of ever-present and evolving threats, I urge my colleagues to support the Securing the Cities Improvement Act.

Let's honor the victims by taking decisive action to protect our Nation from future atrocities and future acts of cowardice. We are America. We stand firm in our protection.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1374.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from California closes.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking Mr. CARTER for H.R. 1374. This legislation will play a critical role in en-

suring that our local jurisdictions maintain the ability to detect and respond to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.

Without initiatives like this legislation, the STC, efforts to combat these dangers could be significantly hindered or even discontinued, putting the safety and security of our communities, taxpayers, and citizens at risk.

Passage of this legislation is very essential to preserving our national readiness and to strengthen security against emerging threats and those who would do us harm.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 1374, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1374, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1374.

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.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-25)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2025.

The actions and policies of the Government of Iran continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12957 with respect to Iran and to main-

tain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

DONALD J. TRUMP,
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 7, 2025.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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, March 6, 2025.

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 March 6, 2025, at 4:42 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 524.

That the Senate passed S.J. Res. 3.

That the Senate passed S.J. Res. 28.

That the Senate agreed to Relative to the death of the Honorable David Lyle Boren, former United States Senator from the State of Oklahoma S. Res. 115.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 495;

H.R. 901; and

H.R. 993.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SUBTERRANEAN BORDER DEFENSE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 495) to require annual reports