

frequent and intense disasters, climate change, and the coronavirus pandemic. A larger reservist workforce is required to meet the current challenge, but FEMA has reported that it is difficult to retain reservists and recruit a diverse workforce without being able to offer them basic protections. FEMA Administrator Deanna Criswell has stated that the ability to recruit and maintain a skilled reservist workforce is necessary if the agency is to fulfill its mission of helping people before, during, and after disasters.

This bill will help FEMA continue to fulfill that mission and ensure that these brave women and men do not have to worry that they could lose their livelihoods when they are called by their country to serve.

It is time we give reservists the respect they deserve and provide them protections. I would like to express my gratitude to reservists who have answered the call and to those who will do so in the future.

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 2293, the CREW Act, extends protections under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, commonly referred to as USERRA, to FEMA reservists.

FEMA reservists are a critical component to supporting disaster survivors and our first responders.

The CREW Act would provide FEMA further tools to retain and recruit a workforce. By having a strong workforce, FEMA is then able to respond quickly and effectively to disasters, thereby fulfilling its mission to disaster victims.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in support of S. 2293, the Civilian Reservist Emergency Workforce, or CREW, Act, appropriately named, which is the Senate companion to legislation I introduced to protect FEMA reservists. It would protect them from losing their full-time employment when they are called up to assist our communities during and after disasters.

FEMA reservists have in the past and continue to step up time and time again when communities need help in the wake of severe storms, wildfires, and other climate events. We also saw them on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unlike military reservists, however, FEMA's workforce is not afforded employment protections during deployment. When these men and women are answering the call of duty, they shouldn't have to worry about losing their means of income back home

where they can take care of their own families.

I am proud to lead the House companion to this bill along with my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO). I thank him for his leadership, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2293 will help support FEMA's intermittent workforce and enable the agency to better meet its mission to respond to disasters.

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

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2293, the "Civilian Reservist Emergency Workforce Act of 2021" or "CREW Act."

This bill would amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide certain employment rights to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reservists.

FEMA reservists are temporary, on-call, and intermittent employees who are crucial to the agency's mission to swiftly respond to disasters—but, they currently do not have employment protections.

The bill makes employment protections under the Uniformed Services and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) applicable to FEMA reservists who deploy to major disaster and emergency sites.

It allows reservists to claim such rights under USERRA even if they do not provide notice of their absence from work due to deployment.

The bill ensures that reservists will be able to return to their full-time jobs once their disaster response mission is complete.

These FEMA workers were essential during the Texas Freeze of 2021, the historic natural disaster Hurricane Harvey, and the initial outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic.

We need to protect intermittent FEMA employees' rights to return to their full-time jobs after performing life-changing and life-saving work in our communities.

Currently, FEMA faces a large shortfall of reservists because it is difficult to recruit and retain Americans who can balance reservist duties and full-time employment.

With this bill's protections for employees, FEMA's ability to recruit and retain employees would be enhanced. With more FEMA employees, we can combat disasters and crises quicker.

Our Nation must never again be so ill-prepared to weather a disaster like Hurricane Harvey or a crisis like COVID-19.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2293.

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. ROY. 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.

PLANNING FOR ANIMAL WELLNESS ACT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 4205) to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a working group relating to best practices and Federal guidance for animals in emergencies and disasters, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4205

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 "Planning for Animal Wellness Act" or the "PAW Act".

SEC. 2. WORKING GROUP GUIDELINES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(2) WORKING GROUP.—The term "working group" means the advisory working group established under subsection (b).

(b) WORKING GROUP.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish an advisory working group.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The working group shall consist of—

(1) not less than 2 representatives of State governments with experience in animal emergency management;

(2) not less than 2 representatives of local governments with experience in animal emergency management;

(3) not less than 2 representatives from academia;

(4) not less than 2 veterinary experts;

(5) not less than 2 representatives from nonprofit organizations working to address the needs of households pets and service animals in emergencies or disasters;

(6) representatives from the Federal Animal Emergency Management Working Group; and

(7) any other members determined necessary by the Administrator.

(d) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

(1) encourage and foster collaborative efforts among individuals and entities working to address the needs of household pets, service and assistance animals, and captive animals, as appropriate, in emergency and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery; and

(2) review best practices and Federal guidance, as of the date of enactment of this Act, on congregate and noncongregate sheltering and evacuation planning relating to the needs of household pets, service and assistance animals, and captive animals, as appropriate, in emergency and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

(e) NO COMPENSATION.—The members of the working group shall serve on the working group on a voluntary basis.

(f) GUIDANCE DETERMINATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall determine whether the best practices and Federal guidance described in subsection (d)(2) are sufficient.

(g) NEW GUIDANCE.—Not later than 540 days after the date of enactment of this Act, if the Administrator, in consultation with the working group, determines that the best practices and Federal guidance described in subsection (d)(2) are insufficient, the Administrator, in consultation with the working group, shall publish updated Federal guidance.

(h) SUNSET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the working group shall terminate on the date that is 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) EXTENSION.—The Administrator may extend the date described in paragraph (1) if the Administrator determines an extension is appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. 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. 4205.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4205, the Planning for Animal Wellness Act. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee marked up the companion bill, H.R. 7789, introduced by Representative TITUS earlier this summer.

This bill requires the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a working group of experts to review and, if necessary, update its guidance for addressing the needs of animals and pets before, during, and after disasters.

Animals are among the most vulnerable when disaster strikes. Like people, they may be displaced or require evacuation and sheltering. However, disaster shelters are often unable or unwilling to accommodate animals. Pets are beloved members of the family, and owners should not have to choose between abandoning their animals and getting to safety. When individuals are forced to make this terrible decision, they often refuse to evacuate before a natural disaster.

This bill will remove barriers to ensure animal welfare is properly considered in emergency planning so that all members of the family—human and pet—are safe during disasters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

S. 4205, the Planning for Animal Wellness, or PAW Act, establishes a FEMA working group to determine Federal guidance on animal care during emergencies and natural disasters.

We have seen citizens impacted by disasters reluctant to evacuate if they can't bring their pets with them. This can greatly affect the ability of emergency managers and local first responders to keep individuals safe.

Whether it is service animals, household pets, or farm animals, we have made improvements to address this issue; however, problems still persist.

Given this fact, the bill establishes a working group to review FEMA's policies, determine best practices, and make recommendations to help better prepare and respond to disasters.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, I rise in support of S. 4205, the Planning for Animal Wellness, or PAW Act. This is the Senate companion to legislation I introduced along with Chairman DEFAZIO to help protect our beloved pets during disasters.

When preparing for and responding to disasters, animal welfare often is not taken into consideration. Sadly, some owners make the risky decision of refusing to evacuate in order to stay with their pets. We have seen heartbreaking pictures of people on their roofs during floods clinging to their animals, along with their children and a few household possessions.

The PAW Act establishes a FEMA advisory group to align agency guidance with current best practices in animal welfare for emergency preparedness. This will ensure first responders and Federal disaster response workers can help pet owners plan to keep every member of their family, even the furry and feathered ones, safe during a disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation. I also thank Senators PETERS and JOHNSON for their leadership on this in the other Chamber. I urge your vote in support.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, the PAW Act will help identify persistent problem areas and best practices when it comes to dealing with pets and animals in disasters and ultimately improve our response to disasters to save more lives.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues as well to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4205.

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. ROY. 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.

BULB REPLACEMENT IMPROVING GOVERNMENT WITH HIGH-EFFICIENCY TECHNOLOGY ACT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 442) to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to procure the most lifecycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting products and to issue guidance on the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of those products, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 442

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 “Bulb Replacement Improving Government with High-efficiency Technology Act” or the “BRIGHT Act”.

SEC. 2. GUIDANCE.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall—

(1) issue guidance to Federal agencies for the procurement and use of the most lifecycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting systems (as determined in accordance with section 3313 of title 40, United States Code) to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of the Federal Government; and

(2) publish on the internet or otherwise make available to State, local, and Tribal entities information on ways to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and economy by procuring and using the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting systems (as determined in accordance with section 3313 of title 40, United States Code).

SEC. 3. PROCUREMENT OF LIFE-CYCLE COST EFFECTIVE AND ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3313 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (h);

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) through (g) as subsections (f) through (i), respectively;

(3) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through the end of subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“§ 3313. Procurement of life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting systems

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of General Services.

“(2) LIGHTING SYSTEM.—The term ‘lighting system’ means the elements required to maintain a desired light level, including lamps, light fixtures, fixture distribution, sensors and control technologies, interior design elements, and daylighting sources.

“(b) PROCUREMENT.—