

through the farm bill, one of the few remaining exercises in good governance left in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me and truly uplift our family farms.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE AND WELCOMING WEST COAST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

(Ms. VAN DUYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to pay tribute to and welcome to Washington, D.C., a group of dedicated nursing and respiratory therapy students and professionals from West Coast University and American Career College.

West Coast University has been educating and preparing students for nursing and healthcare-related careers for more than 100 years. WCU is well known for its preeminent undergraduate, master's, and doctorate nursing programs.

WCU established a campus in Dallas in 2012. In 2021, after a decade of proven excellence in student outcomes, WCU opened a state-of-the-art nursing, occupational therapy, and physician assistants campus in Richardson. The school serves approximately 1,100 campus-based and 2,000 online students. WCU also has a campus in Florida that serves approximately 1,000 students.

Through its campuses in Texas, California, and Florida, West Coast University and American Career College are expanding access to nursing education and addressing workforce shortages among healthcare professionals across the United States. They are committed to preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals to meet our country's rising demand for care.

Please join me in welcoming these fine students to our Nation's Capitol as they share with Congress their experience, passion, and perspective on providing quality nursing and healthcare.

#### 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 8, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
The 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 8, 2024, at 7:43 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 3853

That the Senate agrees to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4366

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 94

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
Acting Clerk.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Friday, March 8, 2024:

H.R. 4366, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes;

S. 992, to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate the Texas and New Mexico portions of the future Interstate-designated segments of the Port-to-Plains Corridor as Interstate Route 27, and for other purposes.

#### 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 9, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
The 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, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 9, 2024, at 12:10 p.m., said to contain a message from the President regarding the designation of funding as an emergency requirement in H.R. 4366, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
Acting Clerk of the House.

#### DESIGNATION OF FUNDING AS AN EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-117)

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 Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 6 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (H.R. 4366; the "Act"), I hereby designate as emergency requirements all funding (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum

from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 9, 2024.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1532

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. GREENE of Georgia) at 3 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

#### 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, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

#### FASTA REFORM ACT OF 2023

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6277) to amend the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 to improve such Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6277

*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 "FASTA Reform Act of 2023".

#### SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL ASSETS SALE AND TRANSFER ACT OF 2016.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in paragraph (9) by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (10) by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(11) implementing innovative methods for the sale, redevelopment, consolidation, or lease of Federal buildings and facilities, including the use of no cost, nonappropriated contracts for expert real estate services to obtain the highest and best value for the taxpayer.";

(2) in section 3(5)(B)(viii) by inserting "other than office buildings and warehouses," after "Properties";

(3) in section 5(b) by striking "Five Board members" and inserting "Four Board members";

(4) in section 7 by adding at the end the following:

"(c) RETURN TO CIVIL SERVICE.—An Executive Director selected from the civil service (as such term is defined in section 2101 of

title 5, United States Code) shall be entitled to return to the civil service after service to the Board ends if the Executive Director's service to the Board ends for reasons other than misconduct, neglect of duty, or malfeasance.”;

(5) in section 8—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking “and the Director of OMB”;

and

(ii) by inserting “for a period of not less than 1 year” before “to assist the Board”;

(B) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(C) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(C) **HIRING OF TERM EMPLOYEES.**—The Executive Director, with approval of the Board, may utilize the Office of Personnel Management to hire employees for terms not to exceed 2 years pursuant to the Office of Personnel Management guidance for nonstatus appointments in the competitive service.”;

(6) in section 10 by striking “6 years after the date on which the Board members are appointed pursuant to section 4” and inserting “on December 31, 2026”;

(7) in section 11(a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “the Administrator and the Director of OMB” and inserting “the Administrator, the Director of OMB, and the Board”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “and” before “square footage”;

(ii) by inserting “, amount of acreage associated with the property, and whether the property is on a campus or larger facility” before the period at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **CONSOLIDATION PLANS.**—Any agency plans to consolidate, reconfigure, or otherwise reduce the use of owned and leased property.”;

(8) in section 12—

(A) in subsection (b)(2) by striking the second sentence and inserting “In the case of a failure by an agency to comply with a request of the Board, the Board shall notify the committees listed in section 5(c), the relevant congressional committees of jurisdiction for the agency, and the inspector general of the agency of such failure.”;

(B) by redesignating subsections (d) through (i) as subsections (e) through (j), respectively;

(C) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) **PREPARATION OF PROPERTIES FOR DISPOSAL.**—At the request of, and in coordination with, the Board, a Federal agency may undertake any analyses and due diligence as necessary to prepare a property for disposition so that the property may be included in the recommendations of the Board under subsection (h), including completion of the requirements of section 306108 of title 54, United States Code, for historic preservation and identification of the likely highest and best use of the property subsequent to disposition.”;

(D) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and” at the end;

(II) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(III) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) the process to be followed by Federal agencies to carry out the actions described under subparagraph (A), including the use of no cost, nonappropriated contracts for expert real estate services and other innovative methods, to obtain the highest and best value for the taxpayer; and”;

(ii) in paragraph (2) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) **THIRD ROUND.**—During the period beginning on the day after the transmittal of the second report and ending on the day before the termination of the Board under section 10, the Board may transmit to the Director of OMB a third report required under paragraph (1).”;

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(k) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—The Board shall periodically submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report containing any recommendations on consolidations, exchanges, sales, lease reductions, and redevelopments that are not included in the transmissions submitted under subsection (h), or approved by the Director of OMB under section 13, but which the majority of the Board concludes meets the goals of this Act.”;

(9) in section 13—

(A) in subsection (a) by striking “subsections (b) and (g)” and inserting “subsections (b) and (h)”;

(B) in subsection (c)(4)—

(i) by inserting “, in whole or in part,” before “received under paragraph (3)”;

(ii) by striking “revised” the second place it appears;

(10) in section 20 by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The provisions of this section, including the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on the date on which the Board transmits the second report under section 12(h)(2)(B) and shall apply to proceeds from—

“(1) transactions contained in such report; and

“(2) any transactions conducted after the termination of the Board pursuant to section 10.”;

(11) in section 21(b) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) Whether the Federal real property is on a campus or similar facility and, if so, identification of such campus or facility and related details, including total acreage.”;

(12) by inserting after section 25 the following:

“**SEC. 26. ACCESS TO FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND REPORTS.**

“The Federal Real Property Council established under section 623 of title 40, United States Code, shall ensure that the Board has access to any meetings of the Council and any reports required under such section.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 26. Access to Federal Real Property Council meetings and reports.”.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 6277.

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

There was no objection.

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

First, I would thank the Economic Development, Public Buildings and

Emergency Management Subcommittee Ranking Member TITUS from Nevada for working with me on this piece of legislation. The Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act, also known as FASTA, was passed in 2016 to create a temporary board of experts to identify Federal properties for sale and redevelopment.

Unfortunately, the process has not worked as Congress originally envisioned, and this bill seeks to remedy that.

Federal agencies are reluctant to let go of property they don't need, and it has become clear the board requires more authority to gather data it needs to develop recommendations.

This bill would make a number of reforms to improve the effectiveness of the process, including extending the board's timeline, speeding up the effective date of incentives for agencies to put properties forward, and giving the board access to the Federal Real Property Council.

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act, as you heard, FASTA, was a bipartisan and bicameral effort led by the T & I Committee in the 114th Congress, with the goal of improving the disposal process for unneeded Federal real property.

FASTA established the Public Buildings Reform Board, PBRB, an independent Federal agency, to review and recommend unused properties for the government to sell. Once the properties were identified, the PBRB was to work with the Office of Management and Budget and the General Services Administration to dispose of these properties via a new, temporary three-round process.

Since its establishment, however, the PBRB has faced significant challenges. Although the legislation was passed in 2016, members were not appointed until May of 2019. Furthermore, the board was unable to conduct business for most of 2022 after two board members resigned, leaving the agency without a quorum until November 2022.

As a result, they were unable to complete and submit to OMB their first round of recommendations.

Overall, difficulties in doing research during the pandemic, lack of access to funding to help the agencies prepare for dispositions, delays in selling two particularly valuable properties in the high-value round, and disagreements with GSA and OMB on disposition strategies have all made the board's work challenging.

Due to these challenges and delays, I join Chairman PERRY in sponsoring the FASTA Reform Act, and I thank him for his leadership.

It requires Federal agencies to share their real property data and consolidation plans with the board. It also enables the board to submit recommendations to OMB on a rolling basis. It

gives the board control over the sales proceeds in the Asset Proceeds and Space Management Fund. It reduces the quorum requirement for meetings and activities from five board members to four. It permits agencies to prepare properties for disposition, and it extends the operation of the PBRB to December 2026.

As agencies' post-pandemic space needs evolve, efficient and effective disposal of unneeded properties will become even more important.

Allowing this demonstration program to complete its work will yield important information that can mitigate several longstanding disposal challenges and improve the size and efficiency of the Federal real property portfolio.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I think this is a good example of government efficiency, saving taxpayer dollars, and working across the aisle.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for his support.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), for her hard work on this effort. H.R. 6277 makes improvements to the authorities of the Public Buildings Reform Board, or the PBRB, established by the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016, or the FASTA, to increase the number of Federal properties the board recommends be sold or redeveloped.

By allowing for more Federal properties to be sold or redeveloped, H.R. 6277 will ultimately reduce the cost of our Federal real estate portfolio, resulting in savings for the taxpayers.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6277.

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.

#### AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE AND THE NATIONAL HONOR GUARD AND PIPE BAND EXHIBITION

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the

concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 83

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

#### SECTION 1. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the 43d Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service (in this resolution referred to as the "Memorial Service"), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2023.

(b) DATE OF MEMORIAL SERVICE.—The Memorial Service shall be held on May 15, 2024, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate, with preparation for the event to begin on May 10, 2024, and takedown completed on May 16, 2024.

#### SEC. 2. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL HONOR GUARD AND PIPE BAND EXHIBITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (in this resolution referred to as the "Exhibition"), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to allow law enforcement representatives to exhibit their ability to demonstrate Honor Guard programs and provide for a bagpipe exhibition.

(b) DATE OF EXHIBITION.—The Exhibition shall be held on May 14, 2024, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

#### SEC. 3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsors of the Memorial Service and Exhibition shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the events.

#### SEC. 4. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsors referred to in section 3(b) are authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment, as may be required for the Memorial Service and Exhibition.

#### SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the events.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H. Con. Res. 83.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H. Con. Res. 83, which I introduced, honors our Nation's fallen law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty last year with a memorial service here at the Capitol.

Every day our police officers show up to protect and serve, keeping our families, businesses, and communities safe. Unfortunately, so many of our police officers are demonized and disparaged for doing one of the hardest, most important jobs in the country, and it is a job that continues to grow more dangerous every day.

We all owe our gratitude to those police officers who continue to serve despite these challenging times. This memorial service is only one small way to thank and honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, I also thank the Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Ranking Member DINA TITUS from Nevada for working with me on this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Con. Res. 83 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 43rd annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

As the ranking member, as you heard, of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, it is an honor to carry this resolution alongside subcommittee chair, Mr. PERRY.

The memorial service will be held on May 15. It will be coordinated with the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police, and it will honor law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty during 2023; that includes five from Nevada.

First, Correctional Officer Victor Hunter served with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police for 4 years.

During an altercation between two inmates, Officer Hunter rushed to the scene to calm the situation. In the aftermath, he began to feel ill and was sent home.