

as that of current Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Ranking Member LEVIN.

The VA administers major programs like the GI Bill, Veteran Readiness & Employment, or VR&E, and the VA Home Loan program. However, these programs must compete for attention and oversight within the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Often, there is a lack of attention from VBA on critical benefits, since a majority of the staff and resources are dedicated to the administration of disability compensation and pension claims.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3738, urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), my good friend and the Representative from Ohio's Second Congressional District.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 3738, the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration Act, or VEOTA Act.

As a retired member of the U.S. Army Reserve and Iraq war veteran, I know how important it is to help our warfighters succeed in their transition to civilian life.

Far too often, people think unjustly that veterans return from war defeated and with skills that aren't applicable to the civilian world. This could be no further from the truth and anything else I have ever heard. Our veterans are strong, dependable leaders and team players. Our commitment to programs that promote opportunity and success brings forth their abilities and potential.

I believe our servicemembers should have a plan from the day that they enter the military to the day they transition out and beyond.

□ 1830

We should care about their military and post-military careers. Our veterans are soldiers for life, as we say in the Army, and we need to put as much emphasis and attention on their success after service as we do during it.

Currently, the Veterans Benefits Administration is responsible for all Department of Veterans Affairs benefits provided to veterans outside of healthcare and cemetery services.

While there are many different benefits that the VBA provides, the bulk of staffing and resources have been, understandably, directed toward the administration of disability compensation and pension claims. This has resulted in a lack of attention on the administration of other VBA benefits, such as the Forever GI Bill, vocational rehabilitation, home loan benefits, and VA's portion of the Transition Assistance Program.

We can't let these benefits fall by the wayside, especially those that empower veterans and help set them on the path to success in civilian life.

By aligning transition, education, and employment programs in a fourth administration within the VA, this act will modernize the Department and ensure that these opportunity-focused programs get the high priority they deserve and the oversight they need to better serve our veterans.

I thank Representative LEVIN for leading this legislation with me now for the third time. We have many Senators supporting us, as well.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation to help improve the way veterans receive VA services, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3738, as amended.

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. BOST. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4866; and

H.R. 4755.

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

FIRE WEATHER DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2024

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. 4866) to direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a program to improve fire weather and fire environment forecasting, detection, and local collaboration, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 341, nays 48, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 153]

YEAS—341

Adams	Fitzpatrick	Mace
Aguilar	Fleischmann	Malliotakis
Allen	Fletcher	Maloy
Allred	Flood	Mann
Amo	Foster	Manning
Amodei	Foushee	Mast
Armstrong	Frankel, Lois	Matsui
Auchincloss	Franklin, Scott	McBath
Babin	Frost	McCaul
Bacon	Fulcher	McClain
Baird	Gallego	McClellan
Balderson	Garamendi	McClintock
Balint	Garbarino	McCollum
Barr	Garcia (IL)	McCormick
Barragán	Garcia (TX)	McGarvey
Beatty	Garcia, Mike	McGovern
Bentz	Garcia, Robert	Meeks
Bera	Gimenez	Menendez
Bergman	Golden (ME)	Meng
Beyer	Goldman (NY)	Meuser
Bice	Gonzales, Tony	Miller (OH)
Bilirakis	Gonzalez,	Miller (WV)
Bishop (GA)	Vicente	Miller-Meeks
Blunt	Gooden (TX)	Molinaro
Blumenth	Gottheimer	Moolenaar
Bost	Graves (LA)	Moore (UT)
Bowman	Graves (MO)	Moore (WI)
Boyle (PA)	Green (TN)	Moran
Brown	Green, Al (TX)	Morale
Brownley	Griffith	Moskowitz
Buchanan	Grothman	Moulton
Bucshon	Guest	Mrvan
Burgess	Guthrie	Mullin
Bush	Harder (CA)	Murphy
Calvert	Hayes	Nadler
Cammack	Hern	Napolitano
Caraveo	Hill	Neal
Carbajal	Himes	Neguse
Cardenas	Hinson	Newhouse
Carey	Horsford	Nickel
Carl	Houchin	Norcross
Carson	Houlahan	Nunn (IA)
Carter (GA)	Hoyer	Oberholte
Carter (TX)	Hoyle (OR)	Ocasio-Cortez
Cartwright	Hudson	Omar
Case	Huffman	Owens
Casten	Huizenga	Pallone
Castor (FL)	Issa	Palmer
Castro (TX)	Ivey	Panetta
Chavez-DeRemer	Jackson (IL)	Pappas
Cherfilus-	Jackson (NC)	Pascarell
McCormick	Jacobs	Peltola
Chu	James	Pence
Ciscomani	Jayapal	Perez
Clark (MA)	Jeffries	Pettersen
Clarke (NY)	Johnson (GA)	Pfluger
Cleaver	Johnson (SD)	Phillips
Clyburn	Jordan	Pingree
Cohen	Joyce (OH)	Pocan
Connolly	Kaptur	Porter
Correa	Kean (NJ)	Pressley
Costa	Keating	Quigley
Courtney	Kelly (IL)	Ramirez
Craig	Kelly (MS)	Raskin
Crenshaw	Kelly (PA)	Reschenthaler
Crockett	Khanna	Rodgers (WA)
Crow	Kiggans (VA)	Rogers (AL)
Cuellar	Kildee	Rogers (KY)
D'Esposito	Kiley	Ross
Davids (KS)	Kilmer	Rouzer
Davis (IL)	Kim (CA)	Ruiz
Davis (NC)	Krishnamoorthi	Ruppersberger
De La Cruz	Kuster	Ryan
Dean (PA)	LaHood	Salazar
DeGette	LaLota	Salinas
DeLauro	Lamborn	Sánchez
DelBene	Landsman	Sarbanes
Deluzio	Larsen (WA)	Scalise
DeSaulnier	Larson (CT)	Scanlon
DesJarlais	Latta	Schakowsky
Dingell	LaTurner	Schiff
Doggett	Lawler	Schneider
Duarte	Lee (CA)	Scholten
Dunn (FL)	Lee (FL)	Schrier
Edwards	Lee (NV)	Schweikert
Ellzey	Lee (PA)	Scott (VA)
Emmer	Leger Fernandez	Scott, Austin
Escobar	Letlow	Scott, David
Eshoo	Levin	Sessions
Espallat	Lieu	Sherman
Estes	Lofgren	Simpson
Ezell	Loudermilk	Slotkin
Feenstra	Lucas	Smith (MO)
Ferguson	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NJ)
Finstad	Luttrell	Smith (WA)
Fischbach	Lynch	Smucker

Sorensen	Timmons	Walberg
Soto	Titus	Wasserman
Spanberger	Tlaib	Schultz
Stansbury	Tokuda	Waters
Stanton	Tonko	Watson Coleman
Stauber	Torres (CA)	Weber (TX)
Steel	Trahan	Webster (FL)
Stefanik	Trone	Wenstrup
Steil	Turner	Westerman
Stevens	Underwood	Williams (GA)
Strickland	Valadao	Williams (NY)
Suozzi	Van Drew	Williams (TX)
Takano	Van Duyne	Wilson (FL)
Tenney	Van Orden	Wilson (SC)
Thanedar	Vargas	Wittman
Thompson (CA)	Vasquez	Womack
Thompson (MS)	Veasey	Yakym
Thompson (PA)	Velázquez	Zinke
Tiffany	Wagner	

NAYS—48

Aderholt	Davidson	Kustoff
Alford	Donalds	Lesko
Banks	Duncan	Luna
Bean (FL)	Fallon	Massie
Biggs	Fitzgerald	Miller (IL)
Bishop (NC)	Fox	Mills
Boebert	Fry	Moore (AL)
Brecheen	Gaetz	Perry
Burchett	Good (VA)	Posey
Burlison	Gosar	Rose
Cline	Hageman	Rosendale
Cloud	Harris	Roy
Clyde	Harshbarger	Rutherford
Collins	Higgins (LA)	Self
Comer	Jackson (TX)	Steube
Crane	Joyce (PA)	Strong

NOT VOTING—39

Arrington	Grijalva	Ogles
Blumenauer	Hunt	Pelosi
Budzinski	Jackson Lee	Peters
Carter (LA)	Kamlager-Dove	Sewell
Casas	Kim (NJ)	Sherrill
Cole	LaMalfa	Smith (NE)
Crawford	Langworthy	Spartz
Curtis	Magaziner	Swalwell
Diaz-Balart	McHenry	Sykes
Evans	Mfume	Torres (NY)
Gomez	Mooney	Waltz
Granger	Nehls	Wexton
Greene (GA)	Norman	Wilde

□ 1857

Messrs. COMER, ALFORD, HARRIS, CLINE, DUNCAN, and BANKS changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. TIFFANY changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrator to improve fire weather and fire environment forecasting, detection, and local collaboration, and for other purposes.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE, JR.

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise, along with my colleagues, to convey our deepest sorrow on the passing of our good friend, six-term, New Jersey Congressman, DONALD PAYNE, Jr. of the 10th Congressional District.

We are grateful for his public service, and offer our prayers and condolences

to his wife, Beatrice, and their children, Donald III, Jack, and Yvonne.

Like his father before him—Congressman Donald Payne, Sr., who I served with and who was also a great man—Donald Jr. was a dedicated public servant who tirelessly and tenaciously worked to improve the lives of New Jersey families, especially the poor.

He was a kind and compassionate lawmaker who cared deeply for the people of his district, our State, the country, those in need, and especially the sick.

As a diabetic, he fought to lower the cost of insulin. He wrote the House-passed Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act and the Amputation Reduction and Compassion Act to provide full coverage for PAD to help reduce amputations.

His TEST for Lead Act was designed to protect children from lead-contaminated drinking water in schools, and he wrote the DHS Interoperable Communications Act that became law in July 2015.

As chairman and then ranking member of the House Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, Donald helped lead the charge to improve America's transportation infrastructure, played a key role in securing the Gateway project, and was a powerful ally of Amtrak.

DONALD PAYNE served two terms on the Newark City Council, including as president, and beginning in 2005, three terms as an Essex County freeholder, which we now call county commissioner. DONALD PAYNE, Jr. will be deeply missed.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for any comments he may have.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. SMITH really laid out all the great accomplishments of DON PAYNE in terms of what he accomplished here, which was so much as a Member of Congress, but I just want to talk a little bit about the man.

I think that many of us know Don for his trademark bow tie, his big smile, and his friendly demeanor. More than a Member of New Jersey's congressional delegation, he was part of our family, and he affectionately called me “Uncle Frank.”

He used his time here to improve the lives and health of New Jerseyans and Americans with so many things that CHRIS SMITH mentioned, but DON was always struggling with health issues from the day that he came here. I am not sure that many of you knew that, but it never stopped him from his work, from voting.

So many times in the past year we had very close votes and he would always show up if there was any way possible. I remember him doing Special Orders. He had the record for the most Special Orders for several years.

If you look over there in seat number one where Democrats would sit if they wanted to line up for Special Orders, you see the flowers and the mourning

cloak. He was always the first one to come down.

I think a lot of you maybe didn't realize how uncomfortable he was when he was sick, but he always took the time to ask how you were doing. If I would go up to him and say, DONALD, how are you feeling today? He would say, fine and just move on. Then he would say, how are you doing, Frank? How do you feel? How is the family?

He just made you feel like he was your friend, and it didn't matter whether you were Democrat or Republican or where you were from.

I will join Mr. SMITH in mentioning his wife, Beatrice, and his children. He had triplets. I think many of you know Donald III, Jack, and Yvonne. We want to honor his legacy and his service to our State and our country. I will say in closing to DON, Uncle Frank says goodbye, but he certainly will not be forgotten by any of us.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join us in a moment of silent prayer for our deceased colleague.

PRIVACY ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH ACT

The SPEAKER. 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. 4755) to support research on privacy enhancing technologies and promote responsible data use, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 354, nays 36, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 154]

YEAS—354

Aderholt	Brownley	Cloud
Aguilar	Buchanan	Clyburn
Allen	Bucshon	Clyde
Allred	Budzinski	Cohen
Amodei	Burgess	Collins
Armstrong	Bush	Comer
Auchincloss	Calvert	Connolly
Babin	Caraveo	Correa
Bacon	Carbajal	Costa
Baird	Cárdenas	Courtney
Balderson	Carey	Craig
Balint	Carl	Crenshaw
Banks	Carson	Crockett
Barr	Carter (GA)	Crow
Barragán	Carter (TX)	Cuellar
Beatty	Cartwright	D'Esposito
Bentz	Casas	Davids (KS)
Bera	Case	Davis (NC)
Bergman	Casten	De La Cruz
Beyer	Castor (FL)	Dean (PA)
Bice	Castro (TX)	DeGette
Bilirakis	Chavez-DeRemer	DeLauro
Bishop (GA)	Cherfilus-	DelBene
Blunt	McCormick	Deluzio
Bonamici	Chu	DeSaulnier
Bost	Ciscomani	DesJarlais
Bowman	Clark (MA)	Doggett
Boyle (PA)	Clarke (NY)	Duarte
Brown	Cleaver	Dunn (FL)
	Cline	Edwards