

his collaboration with the House Oversight Committee for advancing this bill today.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan commonsense bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise today in support of S. 2073. I thank my colleague from California, Ranking Member ROBERT GARCIA, for introducing the House companion to the Eliminate Useless Reports Act of 2023. I am proud to support this bipartisan legislation. The accumulation of outdated and redundant reports is something that the Oversight Committee has tried to deal with several times over the past few decades.

The Eliminate Useless Reports Act takes an innovative approach. It would establish clear procedures for Federal agencies to request the elimination or modification of duplicative or outdated reports in their annual budget justifications. This would ensure that the correct committee of jurisdiction with the appropriate expertise considers this request. This bill would better inform Congress and the executive branch and ensure that agencies are not wasting time or resources on redundant or archaic reports.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will get this done in less than 5 minutes. As has been pointed out, anybody around here a while knows that frequently when a bill passes we include requirements that an agency provide reports.

Another way for a Congressman to pass a bill is just to pass a freestanding bill that requires another report. Obviously, these reports aren't cheap. There is a great deal of hours spent as the agencies compile the reports. It is time to have a look at these reports and see how many are necessary and how many we can do away with.

The President's most recent budget request identified 53 reports that were outdated or duplicative. Some examples: Department of Commerce report on business licensing activities in Iraq. This report was signed into law in 2003 during the start of the Iraq war. As our presence there diminished, the need for regular reporting on Iraq-bound business licenses has outlived its usefulness.

There is the Department of Labor report on a community college and career training grant. This is another report that is outdated. The authorization of the appropriations has expired, and no funds have been appropriated for this program since 2014; nevertheless, the requirement for the report lives on.

There is the annual FTC report on the market concentration of the ethanol industry. The FTC has submitted the report every year since 2005, but

each and every year the ethanol market has not been overly concentrated, entry into the market is easy, and the present circumstances do not justify a presumption that a single ethanol producer could set prices. In other words, the usefulness of the report is no longer in existence.

The Eliminate Useless Reports Act simply requires each agency to identify and recommend eliminating, modifying, or reducing the frequency of duplicative reports. Recommendations from agencies will be considered by the relevant committees so they can take appropriate legislative steps.

This bill would increase the efficiency of identifying outdated or duplicative reports.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to co-lead the House version in a nice bipartisan effort with my Oversight Subcommittee colleague, Congressman ROBERT GARCIA from California.

I am also thankful for the bipartisan Senate cosponsors to this bill, Senators OSSOFF and LANKFORD.

I urge adoption of Senate bill S. 2073, an important bipartisan step toward improving the efficiency of the Federal Government.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for S. 2073, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill that will increase government efficiency, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2073, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GSA TECHNOLOGY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7524) to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the submission of reports on certain information technology services funds to Congress before expenditures may be made, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7524

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 "GSA Technology Accountability Act".

SEC. 2. TRANSPARENCY OF GSA FUNDED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES.

(a) TRANSPARENCY ON USE OF THE FEDERAL CITIZEN SERVICES FUND.—Section 323 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than September 30 of each year, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that includes, at a minimum, a list of each program funded by expenditures during the previous fiscal year, or that have been funded by expenditures in the previous 5-year period, including the following:

"(1) An explanation of the program.

"(2) Information about how the program is funded, including the amount of expenditures the program received in the previous fiscal year and total amount.

"(3) The amount of reimbursements associated with or anticipated to be associated with the program from another source of funds or another agency, if applicable.

"(4) A description of projects or initiatives associated with the program, including—

"(A) information about when the projects or initiatives were initiated and completed; and

"(B) funding information, to the extent practicable.

"(5) Any additional information, data, or analysis used to determine the information estimated within the report, if applicable.

"(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of General Services.

"(2) EXPENDITURE.—The term 'expenditure' means any obligation of funds from the Fund."

(b) TRANSPARENCY ON USE OF THE ACQUISITION SERVICES FUND.—Section 321 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than September 30 of each year, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that includes, at a minimum, a list of each program within the Technology Transformation Services funded by expenditures during the previous fiscal year, or that have been funded by expenditures in the previous 5-year period, including the following:

"(1) An explanation of the program.

"(2) Information about how the program is funded, including the amount of expenditures the program received in the previous fiscal year and total amount.

"(3) The amount of reimbursements associated with or anticipated to be associated with the program from another source of funds or another agency, if applicable.

"(4) A description of projects or initiatives associated with the program, including—

"(A) information about when the projects or initiatives were initiated and completed; and

"(B) funding information, to the extent practicable.

"(5) Any additional information, data, or analysis used to determine the information estimated within the report, if applicable.

"(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of General Services.

"(2) EXPENDITURE.—The term 'expenditure' means any obligation of funds from the Acquisition Services Fund for programs referenced in subsection (h)."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this Act shall take effect on the commencement of the first fiscal year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7524, the GSA Technology Accountability Act.

The General Services Administration's Technology and Transformation Services, or TTS, manages several Federal technology projects and initiatives.

These projects and initiatives are mostly funded through two funds—the Citizen Services Fund and the Acquisition Services Fund.

There is little transparency, however, into how money from these funds is allocated and what TTS is doing with its resources.

This bill requires the administrator of GSA to submit an annual report to Congress regarding each program funded by the Citizen Services Fund and some programs funded by the Acquisition Services Fund.

This annual report will include information about funded programs, projects and initiatives, and reimbursements associated with each program.

This bill provides much-needed transparency into TTS programs and technology-related projects.

I thank Representative PETE SESSIONS, chairman of the House Oversight Committee Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce, and Representative GERRY CONNOLLY for their work on this legislation.

I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense bill to increase transparency and provide additional oversight of taxpayer dollars, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the GSA Technology Accountability Act.

I thank my colleagues, Representative COMER and Chairman SESSIONS and their staffs, for their partnership and collaboration on this bill. I am pleased to support the updated form of this bill.

This bill would bring increased transparency to some of the General Services Administration's leading programs that are funded by the Federal Citizens Services Fund and the Federal Acquisition Fund.

As GSA continues to make the technological advancements that allow the

American people to securely access government services, this bill will allow Congress to fulfill its vital oversight responsibilities.

Once again, I thank my colleagues for working with us to address GSA's concerns about the original legislation and ensure that this bill allows for increased transparency without creating unnecessary administrative burdens.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), my friend.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman and friend from Kansas for yielding.

I also thank my colleague from the District of Columbia, representing the minority or the Democratic Party on the Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce, for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill. It is a bill that we tried to make bipartisan and to include ideas from a number of people that were on the committee.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce, we worked together not only holding hearings, but discussing the need for transparency and better technology for projects from the General Services Administration.

As it stands now, the government's internal technology consultancy is mostly opaque in its operation, resulting in the lack of competition and a few instances of serious failures from the GSA's products. Those are products that were developed in-house.

Last year, the GSA Inspector General reported that Login.gov, a GSA product that was intended to be a single-sign-on solution for the Federal Government and government agencies, was intentionally misleading Federal agencies about its technical capabilities and ability to actually authenticate the users.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, as people came in to do business with the government agency, GSA had a front to it that would assuredly tell that agency wherever they were going and with great likelihood exactly who that person was.

This subversion left government websites exposed to fraudulent users and removed a critical barrier for criminals to improperly claim government benefits. In other words, they said that it contained certainty about who that person was that came to them for those agencies then did not need to do further investigation to make sure who was seeking government benefits.

While we do not currently know the total amount of fraud that was committed because Login.gov did not provide adequate system security as it was required and stated that it was prepared to do, we do know that the American taxpayer was on the hook for hundreds of billions of dollars—up to

\$400 billion—in fraud from various COVID relief programs; each of these agencies counting on the person that they were speaking to and in contact with were the correct person.

The central tactic used in this was identity theft. It was fraud.

In order to prevent such fraud in the future, Federal systems must have identity verification capabilities that work.

Instead, the GSA marketed, and Federal agencies paid for, an identity verification system that was either not present or did not work.

It left the door wide open for criminals pretending to be someone else, to steal benefits, to steal information, and otherwise compromise government systems with a false identity.

Last year, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight Subcommittees, which I chair, held a hearing and it was a bipartisan answer that we came up with. It is a problem.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues, including the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. CONNOLLY, for his support of this legislation, but certainly back in the committee as we brought this bill forward, it was a bipartisan answer that no matter whose fault it was, it needed to be fixed.

We looked at it, I think, the same way. I am very proud of this committee, and I am very proud of my colleagues, the Democrats, the minority party, for working with us just like it was a part of their responsibility, which it was. I totally support that.

With Login.gov, the Technology Transformation Service failed. Now, we are going to provide the transparency that is required in this bill. I am very proud of this work that was done on a bipartisan basis.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bipartisan bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense bill to increase transparency and provide additional oversight of taxpayer dollars.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7524, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ASTRONAUT SAFE TEMPORARY RIDE OPTIONS ACT

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 272) to amend title 31, United