

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I encourage a “yes” vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6960.

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. BUCSHON. 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.

SETTING CONSUMER STANDARDS FOR LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES ACT

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1797) to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety standard with respect to rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility devices, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1797

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 “Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act”.

SEC. 2. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD FOR CERTAIN BATTERIES.

(a) CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall promulgate, under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, a final consumer product safety standard for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility devices, including electric bicycles and electric scooters, to protect against the risk of fires caused by such batteries.

(2) INCLUSION OF RELATED EQUIPMENT.—The standard promulgated under paragraph (1) shall include requirements with respect to equipment related to or used with rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility devices, including battery chargers, charging cables, external terminals on battery packs, external terminals on micromobility devices, and free-standing stations used for recharging.

(b) CPSC DETERMINATION OF SCOPE.—In promulgating the standard under subsection (a), the Commission shall determine the types of products subject to the standard and shall ensure that such products are—

(1) within the jurisdiction of the Commission; and

(2) reasonably necessary to include to protect against the risk of fires.

(c) MODIFICATIONS.—At any time after the promulgation of the standard under subsection (a), the Commission may, through a rulemaking under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, modify the requirements of the standard.

(d) TREATMENT OF STANDARD.—A standard promulgated under this section, including a modification of such standard, shall be treated as a consumer product safety rule promulgated

under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1797, the Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act.

It is important that the House pass this legislation because when lithium-ion batteries are poorly made—usually ones that come from China, I might add—lack adequate safety standards, are charged improperly, or are damaged, they are prone to ignite a fire.

The associated fires may be accompanied by explosions and the release of toxic gas, causing significant injuries to consumers. We cannot let that happen.

As these micromobility devices have risen in popularity, the use of lithium-ion batteries has increased, as has the use of counterfeit or unsafe batteries coming from China, creating the need for a Federal safety standard.

H.R. 1797 would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue a consumer product safety standard for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility devices to protect against the risk of fires.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives Garbarino and Torres, and others from New York such as Representative CLARKE, and all other Members, for leading this important bipartisan effort to protect citizens and first responders.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 1797, the Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act.

This bill will protect Americans from fires from lithium-ion batteries. It requires the Consumer Product Safety Commission to create a safety standard for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries in micromobility devices, like electric bicycles and scooters.

Fires caused by faulty or misused batteries are increasing throughout our Nation. As just one example, between 2019 and 2023, the Fire Department of the City of New York reported more than 400 fires, 300 injuries, and 12

deaths from fires caused by lithium-ion batteries in New York City alone.

Just a few weeks ago, two people and a cat had to be rescued from a Bridgewater, New Jersey, apartment, not far from my district, because of a fire caused by an electric bicycle battery. After all of these accidents, right now, there is no Federal standard to ensure the products on the market are safe.

As electric bikes and scooters grow in popularity, we must act to guarantee a strong Federal safety standard for lithium-ion batteries. Consumers deserve to feel confident that the products that they see for sale are thoroughly tested and safe, and this legislation would do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES), the main sponsor of this bill, for his leadership on this issue. I also thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) for championing this bill in our committee.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bipartisan legislation titled Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act.

I am grateful for the support of Chair RODGERS, Ranking Member PALLONE, and all the members of the Energy and Commerce Committee. I am also grateful for the partnership of Congress Members YVETTE CLARKE and ANDREW GARBARINO.

At the core of our legislative progress has been the indefatigable advocacy of the FDNY, the Nation’s premier fire department.

The sheer speed and scale of the destruction that a lithium-ion battery fire can bring to communities like mine is nothing short of staggering. In the Bronx, we saw one of our few neighborhood supermarkets, 2096 Grand Concourse, reduced to complete rubble at the hands of a five-alarm fire caused by a malfunctioning lithium-ion battery.

Lithium-ion battery fires are happening with greater frequency and ferocity in America. Indeed, New York City, in particular, has emerged as the epicenter of lithium-ion battery fires, which have grown exponentially, from more than 30 in 2019 to more than 40 in 2020, to more than 100 in 2021, to more than 200 in 2022. In the span of just 4 years, America’s largest city has seen a 900 percent surge in lithium-ion batteries, creating an unprecedented crisis in fire safety.

Poorly manufactured lithium-ion batteries, largely imported from China, are hidden ticking time bombs waiting to detonate in American homes and communities. The fire hazard here has become too glaring to ignore.

The House of Representatives is poised to pass bipartisan legislation that would finally empower the Consumer Product Safety Commission to set long-overdue mandatory safety standards for the manufacturing of lithium-ion batteries in e-mobility devices. In passing legislation so urgently needed, we are upholding our most solemn obligation: public safety.

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Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct, the sponsor of the bill. We are upholding this very important need. We are moving forward because we have a chairman and a ranking member that worked very hard to address these issues and move them forward. Let's get this done as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage a "yes" vote on this particular bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I don't think I can stress enough the importance of this bill as Mr. TORRES has related. These fires and these problems are getting worse all the time, so we have to set a standard.

I urge my colleagues on a bipartisan, unanimous basis to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a "yes" vote on this particular bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1797, 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. BILIRAKIS. 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.

CONSUMER SAFETY TECHNOLOGY ACT

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4814) to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a pilot program to explore the use of artificial intelligence in support of the mission of the Commission and to direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission to study and report on the use of blockchain technology and digital tokens, respectively, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4814

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Consumer Safety Technology Act".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Pilot program for use of artificial intelligence by Consumer Product Safety Commission.

TITLE II—BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Study on blockchain technology and its use in consumer protection.

TITLE III—TOKEN TAXONOMY

Sec. 301. Short title.

Sec. 302. Findings.

Sec. 303. Report on unfair or deceptive acts or practices in transactions relating to tokens.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "consumer product" has the meaning given such term in section 3(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2052(a));

(2) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce; and

(3) the term "token" means a transferrable, digital representation of information recorded on a blockchain or other distributed ledger technology.

TITLE I—ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "AI for Consumer Product Safety Act".

SEC. 102. PILOT PROGRAM FOR USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE BY CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall establish a pilot program to explore the use of artificial intelligence by the Commission in support of the consumer product safety mission of the Commission, as described in section 2(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2051(b)).

(b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—In conducting the pilot program established under subsection (a), the Commission shall do the following:

(1) Use artificial intelligence for at least 1 of the following purposes:

(A) Tracking trends with respect to injuries involving consumer products.

(B) Identifying consumer product hazards.

(C) Monitoring the retail marketplace (including internet websites) for the sale of recalled consumer products (including both new and used products).

(D) Identifying consumer products required by section 17(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2066(a)) to be refused admission into the customs territory of the United States.

(2) Consistent with section 6 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2055), consult with the following:

(A) Technologists, data scientists, and experts in artificial intelligence and machine learning.

(B) Cybersecurity experts.

(C) Members of the retail industry.

(D) Consumer product manufacturers.

(E) Consumer product safety organizations.

(F) Any other person the Commission considers appropriate.

(c) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.*—Not later than 1 year after the conclusion of the pilot program established under subsection (a), the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the

House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and make publicly available on the website of the Commission, a report on the findings and data derived from such program, including the extent to which the use of artificial intelligence improved the ability of the Commission to advance the consumer product safety mission of the Commission.

TITLE II—BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Blockchain Innovation Act".

SEC. 202. STUDY ON BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY AND ITS USE IN CONSUMER PROTECTION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—

(1) *STUDY REQUIRED.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Federal Trade Commission and any other Federal agency the Secretary determines appropriate, shall complete a study on the possible uses of blockchain technology for consumer protection purposes, including preventing or mitigating fraud and other unfair or deceptive acts or practices.

(2) *REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDY.*—In conducting the study required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall examine—

(A) existing and emerging uses of blockchain technology that could help protect consumers, including by preventing or mitigating fraud and other unfair or deceptive acts or practices within the meaning of section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45);

(B) trends in the commercial use of and investment in blockchain technology to prevent or mitigate fraud and other unfair or deceptive acts or practices as described in subparagraph (A);

(C) best practices in facilitating public-private partnerships in blockchain technology to prevent or mitigate fraud and other unfair or deceptive acts or practices as described in subparagraph (A);

(D) potential benefits and risks related to the use of blockchain technology to prevent or mitigate fraud and other unfair or deceptive acts or practices as described in subparagraph (A);

(E) possible modifications to Federal regulations that could encourage the use of blockchain technology to prevent or mitigate fraud and other unfair or deceptive acts or practices as described in subparagraph (A); and

(F) any other relevant observations or recommendations related to the use of blockchain technology for consumer protection purposes, including preventing or mitigating fraud and other unfair or deceptive acts or practices as described in subparagraph (A).

(3) *PUBLIC COMMENT.*—In conducting the study required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide opportunity for public comment and advice relevant to conducting the study.

(b) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.*—Not later than 6 months after the completion of the study required by subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and make publicly available on the website of the Department of Commerce, a report that contains the results of such study.

TITLE III—TOKEN TAXONOMY

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Digital Taxonomy Act".

SEC. 302. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) it is important that the United States remains a leader in innovation;

(2) tokens and blockchain technology are driving innovation and providing consumers with increased choice and convenience;