

reliable supply chains. Having the Department of Commerce study and advise on how to strengthen supply chains will allow producers to plan appropriately.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6571.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers and am prepared to close.

Let me just say, Mr. Speaker, that this act to promote resilience in the supply chain is obviously very important in what we learned, the lessons we learned from the COVID pandemic. I would urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again encourage a “yes” vote on this particular piece of legislation.

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 Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6571, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas 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.

DEPLOYING AMERICAN BLOCKCHAINS ACT OF 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6572) to direct the Secretary of Commerce to take actions necessary and appropriate to promote the competitiveness of the United States related to the deployment, use, application, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6572

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 “Deploying American Blockchains Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY OR OTHER DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY.**—The term “blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology” means a distributed digital database where data is—

(A) shared across a network of computers to create a ledger of verified information among network participants;

(B) linked using cryptography to maintain the integrity of the ledger and to execute other functions; and

(C) distributed among network participants in an automated fashion to concurrently update

network participants on the state of the ledger and other functions.

(2) **COVERED NONGOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES.**—The term “covered nongovernmental representatives” means representatives as specified in the second sentence of section 135(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(b)(1)), except that such term does not include representatives of non-Federal governments.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(4) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(5) **TOKEN.**—The term “token” means a transferable, digital representation of information recorded on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology.

(6) **TOKENIZATION.**—The term “tokenization” means the process of creating a token.

SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE LEADERSHIP ON BLOCKCHAIN.

(a) **FUNCTION OF SECRETARY.**—The Secretary shall serve as the principal advisor to the President for policy pertaining to the deployment, use, application, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization.

(b) **ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary shall take actions necessary and appropriate to support the leadership of the United States with respect to the deployment, use, application, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization, including by—

(1) developing policies and recommendations on issues and risks related to the deployment, use, application, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization, including the issues of decentralized identity, cybersecurity, key storage and security systems, artificial intelligence, fraud reduction, regulatory compliance, e-commerce, health care applications, and supply chain resiliency;

(2) supporting and promoting the stability, maintenance, improvement, and security of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(3) helping to promote the leadership of the United States with respect to the deployment, use, application, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization through the establishment of a Blockchain Deployment Program in the Department of Commerce;

(4) promoting the national security and economic security of the United States with respect to blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(5) supporting engagement with the public to promote the best practices described in subsection (c);

(6) considering policies and programs to encourage and improve coordination among Federal agencies with respect to the deployment of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(7) examining—

(A) how Federal agencies can benefit from utilizing blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on

blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(B) the current use by Federal agencies of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(C) the current and future preparedness and ability of Federal agencies to adopt blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization; and

(D) additional security measures Federal agencies may need to take to—

(i) safely and securely use blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization, including to ensure the security of critical infrastructure; and

(ii) enhance the resiliency of Federal systems against cyber threats to blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(8) supporting coordination of the activities of the Federal Government related to the security of blockchain technology and other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization; and

(9) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, establishing advisory committees to support the adoption of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization, the membership of which shall include—

(A) the Secretary;

(B) representatives of Federal agencies (as determined necessary by the Secretary); and

(C) nongovernmental stakeholders with expertise related to blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, including—

(i) blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology infrastructure operators, suppliers, service providers, and vendors;

(ii) application developers building on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology;

(iii) developers and organizations supporting the advancement and deployment of public blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology;

(iv) subject matter experts representing industrial sectors that can benefit from blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology;

(v) small, medium, and large businesses;

(vi) think tanks and academia;

(vii) nonprofit organizations and consumer groups;

(viii) cybersecurity experts;

(ix) rural stakeholders;

(x) covered nongovernmental representatives;

(xi) artists and the content creator community; and

(xii) other stakeholders with relevant expertise (as determined necessary by the Secretary).

(c) **BEST PRACTICES.**—The Secretary shall, on an ongoing basis, facilitate and support the development and dissemination of best practices with respect to blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization that—

(1) support the private sector, the public sector, and public-private partnerships in the deployment of technologies needed to advance the capabilities of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(2) support the interoperability of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(3) support operations, including hashing and key storage and security systems, that form the foundation of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(4) reduce cybersecurity and other risks that may compromise blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(5) reduce uncertainty and risks in the use of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization; and

(6) quantify the value and potential cost savings associated with adoption of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization, including through comparative analyses of competing and existing technologies within specific industry applications.

(d) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) consult closely and regularly with stakeholders, including private sector individuals and entities, and incorporate industry expertise;

(2) collaborate with private sector stakeholders to identify prioritized, flexible, repeatable, performance-based, and cost-effective approaches to the deployment of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(3) disseminate research and information pertaining to the use of, and marketplace for, blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(4) develop standardized terminology for, and promote common understanding of, blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(5) ensure the best practices described in subsection (c) facilitate the ease of use of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

(6) support open-source infrastructure, data management, and authentication activities with respect to blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization; and

(7) consider the needs and interests of both the private and public sector, including small businesses and Federal, State, and local governments.

(e) **RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to—

(1) require a private entity to share information with the Secretary;

(2) require a private entity to request assistance from the Secretary;

(3) require a private entity to implement any measure or recommendation suggested by the Secretary in response to a request by the private entity; or

(4) require the adoption of the best practices described in subsection (c).

(f) **CONSULTATION.**—In implementing this section, the Secretary may, as appropriate, consult with the heads of relevant Federal agencies.

(g) **TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.**—The Blockchain Deployment Program established

pursuant to subsection (b)(3) shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall make public on the website of the Department of Commerce and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) a description of the activities of the Secretary under this Act during the preceding year;

(2) any recommendations by the Secretary for additional legislation to strengthen the competitiveness of the United States with respect to blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization; and

(3) a description of any emerging risks and long-term trends with respect to blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, applications built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization.

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 in the RECORD on this particular 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 strong support of H.R. 6572, the Deploying American Blockchains Act. I thank the sponsor and lead on this particular piece of legislation, Representative BUCSHON, Dr. BUCSHON, for his tireless efforts. He is definitely on a roll here.

According to a report from Electric Capital, the United States is at serious risk of losing our global leadership in blockchain technology.

The report states that in 2015, 40 percent of all blockchain developers were based in the United States, but today, that number has fallen to just 29 percent, Mr. Speaker, and it is continuing to decline. We can't let that happen. We have to stop that.

Our country benefited greatly from our leadership in the development and deployment of the internet decades ago, but we cannot cede leadership over critical technologies like blockchains to others.

This important bill will direct the Secretary of Commerce to take actions necessary to promote U.S. competitiveness related to the deployment, use, and new applications of this particular piece of technology.

Instead of pushing American innovators abroad, the Secretary of Commerce needs to ensure that Amer-

ican innovators build here in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting of H.R. 6572, 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 in support of H.R. 6572, the Deploying American Blockchains Act. For decades, our Nation's technological leadership has helped build the largest, most dynamic economy in the world, but we must continue working to ensure we outcompete the rest of the world because our economic rivals are trying to close the gap.

Last Congress, House Democrats championed historic legislation, the Chips and Science Act, that President Biden signed into law.

This bill makes transformational investments in research and development, science and technology, and the workforce of the future.

It will help us maintain our Nation's leadership in the industries of tomorrow, including nanotechnology, clean energy, quantum computing, and artificial intelligence.

The Chips and Science Act is already making a huge difference, but we must build on its success. H.R. 6572, the Deploying American Blockchains Act, commissions the Department of Commerce to support the leadership in the United States with respect to blockchain technology, which may have useful applications for supply chain monitoring, data security, and financial transactions.

I commend Representatives BLUNT, ROCHESTER, DINGELL, and BUCSHON for their leadership on this issue, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON).

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6572, the Deploying American Blockchains Act, that I introduced alongside Representative LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER.

This bill will promote American innovation and help develop the use of blockchains and distributed ledger technologies throughout the U.S. economy.

Americans are leaders in utilizing blockchains in public and private sector areas, ranging from ensuring the traceability of drugs to managing supply chains for manufacturers.

Unfortunately, in recent years, our leadership position has seriously diminished as other countries see and embrace the promise that blockchains hold.

According to a 2023 report, the United States is at serious risk of losing its global leadership in blockchain.

In 2015, 40 percent of blockchain developers were based in the United States. In 2022, that number was just 29 percent and dropping. Our share continues to dwindle.

The Deploying American Blockchains Act will help rectify this trend by requiring the Secretary of Commerce to create a program to help promote the competitiveness of the United States in the deployment, use, and application of blockchains.

Instead of pushing American innovators abroad, the Department of Commerce should work with American innovators to build their products here.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Deploying American Blockchains Act.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I will close by saying that, again, this is important in terms of our competitiveness globally.

I ask all our colleagues to vote in favor of this bill on a bipartisan basis, 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. 6572, 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.

AWNING SAFETY ACT OF 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6132) to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a mandatory consumer product safety standard with respect to retractable awnings.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6132

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 "Awning Safety Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD FOR RETRACTABLE AWNINGS.

(a) CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD REQUIRED.—Not later than 18 months 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 fixed and freestanding retractable awnings within the jurisdiction of the Commission to protect against the risk of death or serious injury related to the hazards associated with such awnings, including the risk of death or serious injury related to the awning unexpectedly opening and striking a person while removing the bungee tie-downs for the cover of the awning.

(b) CPSC DETERMINATION OF SCOPE.—The Consumer Product Safety Commission shall specify the types of retractable awning devices within the jurisdiction of the Commission that are within the scope of subsection (a) as part of a standard promulgated under this section, as reasonably necessary to protect against hazards associated with retractable awnings.

(c) TREATMENT OF STANDARD.—A consumer product safety standard promulgated under subsection (a) shall be treated as a consumer product safety rule promulgated under sections 7 and 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2056 and 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 in the RECORD on this 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, first, I thank Representatives BALDERSON and CASTOR for introducing this particular piece of legislation, H.R. 6132, the Awning Safety Act, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank our constituents for bringing these issues to our attention. We really appreciate it. I appreciate the chairwoman and the ranking member because they are bringing these issues forward, and they need to be passed unanimously in the House and go over to the Senate. It is so very important.

Motorized awnings pose a known hazard to the public with about 270,000 units being subject to a recall by the manufacturer facilitated by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in August of 2019.

This product is associated with many incidents, including at least one report of a death and six serious injuries.

The death involved a 73-year-old man who died after falling from a ladder over an elevated porch when the motorized awning opened and unexpectedly struck him.

There is currently no voluntary standard for motorized awnings, and the recall only covered one manufacturer of the products.

H.R. 6132 will save lives and will require the CPSC to promulgate a mandatory standard regarding these home retractable awnings, which is within the jurisdiction of the CPSC.

This is a commonsense bill, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to support this particular bill. 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. 6132, the Awning Safety Act. In 2019, the Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a recall of 270,000 motorized awnings that had caused six injuries and, tragically, one death.

These products are a known hazard to the public, and while I commend the CPSC for taking action in 2019, we must do more to ensure motorized awning products, regardless of brand or manufacturer, are safe.

The Awning Safety Act before us today would require the CPSC to create a mandatory safety standard for fixed and freestanding retractable awnings.

Currently, there is no standard, voluntary or mandatory, for these awnings, and injuries continue to mount.

Just last year, Dr. Michael Hnat, the father of a former Republican committee staffer, tragically died as a result of an incident involving a retractable awning.

We must act to ensure that other American families do not suffer a similar tragedy because of problems with retractable awnings.

I commend Representative CASTOR, the Democratic lead on this bill, and Congressman BALDERSON for their bipartisan work and leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6132, the Awning Safety Act.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Awning Safety Act, which aims to enhance the safety of awnings commonly found in Ohio homes and households across the Nation.

A retractable awning can serve as a valuable source of shade and a gathering spot for family and friends. However, it can pose a significant risk if not properly handled.

This legislation directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish safety standards for fixed and freestanding awnings being typically installed in homes.

My Energy and Commerce Committee colleagues and I learned of the serious risk surrounding the awnings this past August when tragedy struck the family of Olivia Shields, a staff member for the committee at the time. Olivia and her mother are in the gallery as I speak.

Her father, Michael Hnat, was carrying out a routine household task, taking down the retractable awning from the family home.

He was on a ladder when the spring-loaded arm of the awning unexpectedly shot out at him, forcing his ladder to tip and causing him to fall.

Michael suffered a severe spinal cord injury, and despite efforts to save him, he tragically passed away a few days later.