

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) 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, the Congressional Budget Office, or CBO, is the legislative branch agency responsible for helping Congress accurately analyze the budgetary impact of proposed legislation.

The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 authorized CBO to collect information and data directly from agencies. Timely access to agency data is necessary for CBO to produce accurate cost estimates for legislation and prepare other congressional reports. However, agencies often delay or restrict CBO's access to data. One of the most common reasons agencies restrict CBO's access to Federal agency data is because of perceived Privacy Act obstacles.

This bill, the Congressional Budget Office Data Access Act, solves this problem by granting CBO the same Privacy Act exemption afforded to the Government Accountability Office and Congress.

Under existing law, CBO must meet the confidentiality standards required of the agency that is providing the data, and this bill maintains that standard of confidentiality while expanding CBO's data access authority, such access that GAO and Congress already possess.

CBO access to agency data is critical for the legislative branch agency's ability to fulfill its mission.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my House Oversight Committee colleagues, Representative GROTHMAN and Representative MFUME, for their work on the House companion of this legislation, H.R. 7184. I also thank House Budget Committee Chairman ARRINGTON and Ranking Member BOYLE and their staff for coordinating with the Oversight Committee on this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the CBO Data Access Act is a commonsense, good government bill. I commend Senator GARY PETERS and Senator SUSAN COLLINS for introducing it on the Senate side, as well as Congressman LATURNER, the gentleman from Kansas, and Chairman GROTHMAN and Ranking Member MFUME for sponsoring the House companion.

The bill would accelerate the speed and improve the accuracy with which the CBO analyzes the budgetary consequences of proposed legislation by providing CBO with an exemption to the Privacy Act.

H.R. 7032, which has passed both the House and Senate, requires CBO to treat any information it receives with the same level of confidentiality as the agency from which it is received. That is a wise safeguard that will work well in tandem with this bill.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my House colleagues to support this commonsense bill to support CBO in carrying out its mission, 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. 1549.

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.

REUSE EXCESS PROPERTY ACT

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2685) to make data and internal guidance on excess personal property publicly available, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2685

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 "Reuse Excess Property Act".

SEC. 2. REPORTING ON EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 529—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting "and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives" after "Administrator of General Services"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(c) COMPILATION OF DATA.—Not later than 180 days following the close of a fiscal year, the Administrator shall compile the data in the reports submitted under subsection (a) and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives and publish on a centralized online website a publicly available report, which shall include—

"(1) the complete data provided in each report in a user-friendly format;

"(2) a summary of the findings of each report, including the aggregate dollar amount of personal property determined to be no longer required for the purpose of the appropriation used to make the purchase; and

"(3) any other recommendations from the Administrator.";

(2) by inserting after section 529 the following:

"§ 530. Internal guidance on excess personal property

"(a) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, each executive agency shall submit to the Administrator of General Services and make publicly available on the website of the executive agency the internal guidance of the executive agency on considering using excess personal property to meet the needs of the executive agency, which shall include—

"(1) a requirement to consider excess personal property before buying new;

"(2) when it is practicable to check for and obtain excess personal property;

"(3) how to evaluate the suitability of excess personal property for use; and

"(4) defined roles and responsibilities relevant to considering the use of excess personal property, including the designation of an employee as responsible for searching through available excess personal property for items that meet the needs of the executive agency.

"(b) UPDATES.—Each executive agency shall submit to the Administrator of General Services and update on the website of the executive agency any changes to the internal guidance submitted and made available under subsection (a)."

(b) REPORT ON INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall publish a publicly available report on a centralized online website that includes a summary of findings from the interagency working group on the acquisition of personal property that was first convened in February 2023 on ways to improve the use of excess personal property.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 529 the following:

"530. Internal guidance on excess personal property."

(d) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives a report that evaluates the frequency with which executive agencies (as defined in section 102 of title 40, United States Code) acquire personal property that was made, produced, or manufactured by any entity, including any corporation, that is organized under the laws of, is headquartered in, or has its principal place of business in the People's Republic of China, including any Special Administrative Region.

(e) SUNSET.—Effective the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 529—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives"; and

(B) by striking subsection (c);

(2) by striking section 530; and

(3) in the table of sections, by striking the item relating to section 530.

(f) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) 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, as the largest single purchaser of goods and services in the world, Federal agencies acquire billions of dollars of personal property, ranging from office supplies to automobiles, each year. Unfortunately, agencies routinely and wastefully dispose of excess personal property that could otherwise be repurposed for continued Federal agency use.

Agencies are already required to consider the availability of excess personal property before buying new products. This excess personal property is available to agencies at no cost, apart from any necessary transportation expenses.

In a June 2022 report, the Government Accountability Office found that agencies are continuing to acquire new property while not using available excess personal property. GAO's findings indicate that the guidance in the existing Federal Management Regulation, or FMR, alone may not be sufficient.

With better direction from Congress, agencies can be more efficient in leveraging excess personal property to meet their needs and ultimately save taxpayer dollars.

The Reuse Excess Property Act would hold agencies more accountable toward efficiently using and reusing personal property by introducing transparency and accountability mechanisms.

Specifically, this bill would reform existing statutory reporting requirements to the General Services Administration on excess personal property and require GSA to make this information publicly available. This will help decisionmakers and taxpayers better understand the extent to which agencies are working to cut wasteful spending through the use of excess property, informing future policy.

Because GAO found that agencies have varied guidance on the use of excess personal property that often neglects essential FMR components, S. 2685 would require agencies to publicly report their guidance. Such guidance must include essential FMR components outlined by GAO. Agencies must also designate an employee as responsible for searching through available excess personal property for items that meet agency needs.

In response to GAO's report, in February 2023, GSA convened the first meeting of an interagency working group to assess how agencies acquire personal property, uncover obstacles, and recommend improvements to policies for acquisition professionals. This bill would require GSA to make the findings of that working group, including a general summary, publicly available to provide full transparency into efforts to promote the maximum use of excess personal property.

In conclusion, this bill shines a light on agency practices and could incentivize more efficient use of excess personal property, saving untold taxpayer dollars in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MCCLAIN for her leadership on the House companion of this legislation, H.R. 8276.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Reuse Excess Property Act, which would dramatically increase transparency across the Federal Government by strengthening Federal reporting requirements about excess personal property.

I commend Senators PETERS and LANKFORD for introducing it and Chairwoman MCCLAIN and Ranking Member KATIE PORTER for introducing the House counterpart.

The Federal Government has amassed billions of dollars in personal property, including furniture, things like chairs and desks, vehicles, office supplies, and medical equipment. Billions of dollars means a lot of tables and chairs and computers.

Federal agencies are required to survey and index their inventories of personal property annually and identify items they no longer need.

This accounting enables agencies to have a better understanding of excess items that could be considered for use in other Federal agencies or institutions, which is obviously the prudent thing to do.

The GAO identified \$3.9 billion in excess personal property between FY 2016 and FY 2020 and found an additional \$28.9 billion in excess personal property items that were reported but not obtained by other agencies.

These excess items could be transferred to other Federal agencies and departments, distributed to a State or local government, or even sold to the public. It shouldn't just be sitting there.

The Reuse Excess Property Act would increase Federal reporting requirements to Congress and the public and provide greater transparency of acquisition, monitoring, reuse, and disposal of personal property across the whole Federal Government. It directs the GSA and Federal agencies to report

annually to Congress data that it collects related to excess personal property and would also make this data publicly available to all of us.

This greater transparency around Federal use of personal property may help agencies make far more efficient use of these items.

We support this financially prudent and commonsense bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, we urge all of our colleagues to support this legislation and for all Federal agencies to cooperate and aggressively participate in this program.

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. 2685.

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.

ROBERT HAYDEN POST OFFICE

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3639) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2075 West Stadium Boulevard in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the "Robert Hayden Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3639

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

SECTION 1. ROBERT HAYDEN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2075 West Stadium Boulevard in Ann Arbor, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Robert Hayden Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Robert Hayden Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) 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.