

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8692

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 “Amtrak Transparency and Accountability for Passengers and Taxpayers Act”.

SEC. 2. OPEN MEETINGS.

Section 24301(e) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “Section 552 of title 5, this part” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), sections 552 and 552b of title 5, this part”;

(2) in the second sentence by striking “Section 552 of title 5, United States Code, applies” and inserting the following:

“(2) TIMING OF APPLICATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), sections 552 and 552b of title 5 apply”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) SCOPE OF APPLICATION.—

“(A) INFORMATION.—The requirements of the second sentence of section 552b(b) of title 5 shall not apply to any portion of an Amtrak meeting and subsections (d) and (e) of section 552b of title 5 shall not apply to any information pertaining to any portion of an Amtrak meeting otherwise required by section 552b of title 5 to be disclosed to the public in any case in which Amtrak properly determines that such portion or portions of the meeting or the disclosure of such information is likely to involve—

“(i) contract negotiations, including negotiations for contract procurements and agreements, the disclosure of which would imperil or compromise the competitive position of Amtrak;

“(ii) collective bargaining agreements or any terms and conditions that are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of Amtrak; and

“(iii) with respect to any individual who is a prospective officer, employee, or contractor or an officer, employee, or contractor employed or appointed by Amtrak, matters involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any such individual, unless all such individuals whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that the matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting.

“(B) ADDITIONAL APPLICATION.—In addition to the information described in subparagraph (B), the information described in section 552b(c) shall apply to Amtrak meetings.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Utah (Ms. MALOY) and the gentlewoman from Alaska (Mrs. PELTOLA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MALOY. 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 H.R. 8692.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Utah?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Government in the Sunshine Act, or Sunshine Act, was es-

tablished to increase the public's confidence in its government.

Under the Sunshine Act, meetings of government agencies must be open to the public unless one of the statute's exemptions apply.

The act defines an agency as one headed by a collegial body, a majority of whose members are nominated by the President, and whose appointment is subject to advice and consent of the Senate. This clearly describes Amtrak.

The need for full transparency at Amtrak has never been greater. Here are just a few examples.

First, last fiscal year, Amtrak reported operating losses of \$757 million. These were losses made up for by taxpayers. Its Acela II train sets are more than 3 years behind schedule, and the delays have cost Amtrak more than \$140 million in lost revenues.

Additionally, the Northeast Corridor Commission estimates its state of good repair backlog on the Northeast Corridor exceeds \$78.7 billion. Further, the Biden administration's infrastructure law provides for more than \$66 billion in advanced appropriations that Amtrak can use to expand service, regardless of the need to make a profit.

With so much of the taxpayers' money in Amtrak's hands, there clearly needs to be more transparency and accountability for the decisions made by the passenger rail service's board, and this bill provides just that.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8692. This bill requires Amtrak's board of directors to hold open meetings, ensures the public is notified of upcoming meetings, and allows the public to observe board meetings.

The bill increases transparency and allows exceptions when certain sensitive financial and contractual obligations are discussed, including contract negotiations with Amtrak's workers.

Transparency is important, and the concept of open board meetings has support from the Rail Passengers Association and the States for Passenger Rail Coalition.

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

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS).

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8692, the Amtrak Transparency and Accountability for Passengers and Taxpayers Act, is essential legislation for mandating transparency from Amtrak.

This bill applies the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 to Amtrak, requiring meetings of its board of directors to be open to public observation with certain exceptions.

Amtrak's status as a governmental entity for the purposes of the Sunshine Act is beyond dispute. All its voting board members are nominated by the

President and confirmed by the Senate. It shares characteristics with other government-created and -sponsored entities that require board of director meetings to be open.

Amtrak receives substantial taxpayer support. Never in its more than 50-year history has it made a profit, and now it has access to more than \$66 billion. That is with a b, Mr. Speaker. For those of you upstairs, that is \$66 billion in taxpayer support through the Biden administration's infrastructure law.

How this funding will be utilized and how Amtrak is managed is of great importance to its customers, employees, and taxpayers at large.

It is often said that sunshine is the best disinfectant. Opening up many of Amtrak's board of director meetings will better ensure that its decisions are made in the best interest of the public. With so much at stake, Amtrak should not be the exception to transparency.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Chairman GRAVES and the members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for supporting H.R. 8692, and I urge support of this legislation.

Mrs. PELTOLA. Mr. Speaker, this bill will increase transparency of Amtrak decisions as Amtrak uses Federal funding to improve operations, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8692 represents an important step in providing much-needed transparency and accountability to meetings by Amtrak's board of directors and the decisions they make that involve billions of taxpayer dollars.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Utah (Ms. MALOY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8692, 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FERGUSON) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Passage of H.R. 7673; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 9668.

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.

LIBERTY IN LAUNDRY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 7673) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for clothes washers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes, 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 passage of the bill.

This is a 15-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 215, nays 200, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 497]

YEAS—215

Aderholt	Duarte	Joyce (OH)
Alford	Duncan	Joyce (PA)
Allen	Dunn (FL)	Kean (NJ)
Amodei	Edwards	Kelly (MS)
Armstrong	Ellzey	Kelly (PA)
Arrington	Emmer	Kiggans (VA)
Babin	Estes	Kiley
Bacon	Ezell	Kim (CA)
Baird	Fallon	Kustoff
Balderson	Feenstra	LaHood
Banks	Ferguson	LaLota
Barr	Finstad	LaMalfa
Bean (FL)	Fischbach	Lamborn
Bentz	Fitzgerald	Langworthy
Bergman	Fitzpatrick	Latta
Bice	Fleischmann	LaTurner
Biggs	Flood	Lawler
Bilirakis	Fong	Lee (FL)
Bishop (NC)	Fox	Lesko
Boebert	Franklin, Scott	Letlow
Bost	Fry	Lopez
Brecheen	Fulcher	Loudermilk
Buchanan	Garbarino	Lucas
Bucshon	Gimenez	Luetkemeyer
Burchett	Gonzales, Tony	Luna
Burlison	Gonzalez, V.	Luttrell
Calvert	Good (VA)	Mace
Cammack	Gooden (TX)	Malliotakis
Caraveo	Gosar	Maloy
Carey	Graves (LA)	Mann
Carl	Graves (MO)	Massie
Carter (GA)	Green (TN)	Mast
Carter (TX)	Griffith	McClain
Chavez-DeRemer	Grothman	McClintock
Ciscomani	Guest	McCormick
Cline	Guthrie	Meuser
Cloud	Hageman	Miller (IL)
Clyde	Harris	Miller (OH)
Cole	Harshbarger	Miller (WV)
Collins	Hern	Miller-Meeks
Comer	Higgins (LA)	Mills
Crane	Hill	Molinaro
Crawford	Hinson	Moolenaar
Cuellar	Houchin	Mooney
Curtis	Hudson	Moore (AL)
D'Esposito	Huizenga	Moore (UT)
Davidson	Hunt	Moran
Davis (NC)	Issa	Murphy
De La Cruz	Jackson (TX)	Nehls
DesJarlais	James	Norman
Diaz-Balart	Johnson (SD)	Nunn (IA)
Donalds	Jordan	Oberholte

Ogles	Schweikert	Turner
Owens	Scott, Austin	Valadao
Palmer	Self	Van Drew
Peltola	Sessions	Van Deyne
Pence	Simpson	Van Orden
Perez	Smith (MO)	Wagner
Perry	Smith (NE)	Walberg
Pfuger	Smith (NJ)	Weber (TX)
Posey	Smucker	Webster (FL)
Reschenthaler	Spartz	Wenstrup
Rogers (AL)	Stauber	Westerman
Rogers (KY)	Steel	Wied
Rose	Stefanik	Williams (NY)
Rosendale	Steil	Williams (TX)
Rouzer	Steube	Wilson (SC)
Roy	Strong	Wittman
Rulli	Tenney	Womack
Rutherford	Thompson (PA)	Yakym
Salazar	Tiffany	Zinke
Scalise	Timmons	

NAYS—200

Adams	Goldman (NY)	Panetta
Aguilar	Gomez	Pappas
Allred	Gottheimer	Pelosi
Amo	Green, Al (TX)	Peters
Auchincloss	Harder (CA)	Petterson
Balint	Hayes	Phillips
Barragan	Himes	Pingree
Beatty	Horsford	Pocan
Bera	Houlahan	Porter
Beyer	Hoyer	Pressley
Bishop (GA)	Hoyle (OR)	Quigley
Blumenauer	Huffman	Ramirez
Blunt Rochester	Ivey	Raskin
Bonamici	Jackson (IL)	Ross
Bowman	Jackson (NC)	Ruiz
Boyle (PA)	Jacobs	Ruppersberger
Brown	Jayapal	Ryan
Brownley	Jeffries	Salinas
Budzinski	Johnson (GA)	Sanchez
Bush	Kammlager-Dove	Sarbanes
Carbajal	Kaptur	Scanlon
Cardenas	Keating	Schakowsky
Carson	Kelly (IL)	Schneider
Carter (LA)	Kennedy	Scholten
Cartwright	Khanna	Schrier
Casar	Kildee	Scott (VA)
Case	Kilmer	Scott, David
Casten	Krishnamoorthi	Sewell
Castor (FL)	Kuster	Sherman
Castro (TX)	Landsman	Sherrill
Cherfilus-	Larsen (WA)	Slotkin
McCormick	Larson (CT)	Smith (WA)
Chu	Lee (CA)	Sorensen
Clark (MA)	Lee (NV)	Soto
Clarke (NY)	Lee (PA)	Spanberger
Cleaver	Lee Carter	Stansbury
Clyburn	Leger Fernandez	Stanton
Cohen	Levin	Stevens
Connolly	Lofgren	Strickland
Correa	Lynch	Suozzi
Costa	Magaziner	Swalwell
Courtney	Manning	Sykes
Craig	Matsui	Takano
Crockett	McBath	Thanedar
Crow	McClellan	Thompson (CA)
Davids (KS)	McCollum	Thompson (MS)
Davis (IL)	McGarvey	Titus
Dean (PA)	McGovern	Tlaib
DeGette	McIver	Tokuda
DeLauro	Meeks	Tonko
DeBene	Menendez	Torres (CA)
Deluzio	Meng	Torres (NY)
DeSaulnier	Mfume	Trahan
Dingell	Moore (WI)	Trone
Doggett	Morelle	Underwood
Escobar	Moskowitz	Vargas
Eshoo	Moulton	Vasquez
Espallat	Mrvan	Veasey
Fletcher	Mullin	Velázquez
Foster	Nadler	Wasserman
Foushee	Napolitano	Neal
Frankel, Lois	Neal	Schultz
Frost	Neguse	Waters
Garamendi	Nickel	Watson Coleman
Garcia (IL)	Norcross	Wild
Garcia (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez	Williams (GA)
Garcia, Robert	Omar	Wilson (FL)
Golden (ME)	Pallone	

NOT VOTING—15

Burgess	Granger	McHenry
Crenshaw	Greene (GA)	Newhouse
Evans	Grijalva	Rodgers (WA)
Gallego	Lieu	Waltz
Garcia, Mike	McCauley	Wexton

□ 1700

Messrs. VASQUEZ, LANDSMAN, SUOZZI, and GARAMENDI changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STRATEGIC HOMELAND INTEL-
LIGENCE AND ENFORCEMENT
LEGISLATION TO DEFEND
AGAINST THE CCP ACT

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. 9668) to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a working group relating to countering terrorist, cybersecurity, border and port security, and transportation security threats posed to the United States by the Chinese Communist Party, 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 Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) 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 409, nays 4, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 498]

YEAS—409

Adams	Cammack	Davis (IL)
Aderholt	Caraveo	Davis (NC)
Aguilar	Carbajal	De La Cruz
Alford	Cardenas	Dean (PA)
Allen	Carey	DeGette
Allred	Carl	DeLauro
Amo	Carson	DeBene
Amodei	Carter (GA)	Deluzio
Armstrong	Carter (LA)	DeSaulnier
Arrington	Carter (TX)	DesJarlais
Auchincloss	Cartwright	Diaz-Balart
Babin	Casas	Dingell
Bacon	Case	Doggett
Baird	Casten	Donalds
Balderson	Castor (FL)	Duarte
Balint	Castro (TX)	Duncan
Banks	Chavez-DeRemer	Dunn (FL)
Barr	Cherfilus-	Edwards
Barragan	McCormick	Ellzey
Bean (FL)	Chu	Emmer
Beatty	Ciscomani	Escobar
Bentz	Clark (MA)	Eshoo
Bera	Clarke (NY)	Espallat
Bergman	Cleaver	Estes
Beyer	Cline	Ezell
Bice	Cloud	Fallon
Biggs	Clyburn	Feenstra
Bilirakis	Clyde	Ferguson
Bishop (GA)	Cohen	Finstad
Bishop (NC)	Cole	Fischbach
Blumenauer	Collins	Fitzgerald
Blunt Rochester	Comer	Fitzpatrick
Boebert	Connolly	Fleischmann
Bonamici	Correa	Fletcher
Bost	Costa	Flood
Bowman	Courtney	Fong
Bucshon	Craig	Foster
Budzinski	Crane	Foushee
Burchett	Crawford	Fox
Burlison	Crockett	Frankel, Lois
Calvert	Crow	Franklin, Scott
	Cuellar	Frost
	Curtis	Fry
	D'Esposito	Fulcher
	Davids (KS)	Garamendi
	Davidson	Garbarino