

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.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE RECORDS OF CONGRESS SUNSET ACT OF 2024

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9489) to sunset the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9489

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress Sunset Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION OF THE RECORDS OF CONGRESS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “Archivist” means the Archivist of the United States;

(2) the term “Clerk” means the Clerk of the House of Representatives;

(3) the term “Director” means the Director of the Center for Legislative Archives of the National Archives, or any successor thereto;

(4) the term “Member of Congress” means a Member of the Senate or the House of Representatives, a Delegate to the House of Representatives, and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico; and

(5) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Senate.

(b) REPORTING.—Not later than February 1 of the second calendar year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and every calendar year thereafter, the Director shall submit to the Archivist, the Secretary, and the Clerk a report on the management and preservation of the records of Congress during the previous year.

(c) REVIEW.—The Archivist, the Secretary, and the Clerk shall meet to review the management and preservation of the records of Congress and Members of Congress—

(1) not later than 60 days after the date on which the Director submits a report under subsection (b); and

(2) not later than 180 days after the date on which an individual is appointed to the position of Archivist, Secretary, or Clerk.

(d) SUNSET OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Effective on the date that is 60 days after enactment, title 44 of the United States Code is amended—

(1) by striking chapter 27;

(2) by striking the table of sections relating to chapter 27; and

(3) in the table of chapters, by striking the item relating to chapter 27.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and in-

clude extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 9489.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9489, the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress Sunset Act. This measure will sunset an outdated advisory committee and replace it with meaningful reporting requirements.

The Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress was created in 1990 to assist with management and preservation. Since then, the advisory committee has released six detailed reports and continues to meet semiannually. This advisory committee has successfully met its purpose of advising Congress on records management and preservation.

Today, the House Clerk, Secretary of the Senate, and National Archives representatives regularly connect on records management. This close working relationship renders the regular convening of the advisory committee as a check-the-box exercise.

Based on feedback we received from House officers and advisory committee members, this legislation sunsets the advisory committee and replaces it with reporting requirements of the House, Senate, and Center of the Legislative Archives. This will ensure records management and preservation while saving taxpayer dollars on repetitive convenings.

I would like to take a moment to thank the House Clerk and their team for their work on this advisory committee.

I also would like to recognize the service of Danna Bell, the House Clerk's appointee to the advisory committee, who passed away earlier this year. Ms. Bell was a librarian, archivist, former president of the Society of American Archivists, and a helpful resource for our team as we learned more about this advisory committee. She was a dedicated public servant committed to service. I offer my condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 9489, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9489. I also echo the words by my colleague and friend, Mr. STEIL, regarding the life of Danna Bell, who worked here in the House. She had a long record of many contributions to not only this institution but our country.

I rise in support of H.R. 9489, the bipartisan legislation that would sunset the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, allowing us to allocate our limited resources more efficiently. The advisory committee, as my friend has indicated, was estab-

lished in 1990 and was tasked with reviewing and advising Congress and the National Archives on the management and preservation of congressional records.

The House Clerk, one of the committee's leaders, has suggested it sunset, as it has fulfilled its primary objectives and is no longer necessary for addressing the evolving challenges of preserving congressional records.

Over the past 34 years, advancements in technology and the increasing volume of materials to be preserved have dramatically changed, and the landscape of record preservation has changed with it.

By disbanding this advisory committee, we can redirect valuable resources toward enhancing modern archiving practices while saving taxpayer dollars. As we all know, congressional resources are finite—I think we know that all too well—and need to be used efficiently to ensure the continued success of this institution and its service on behalf of the American people.

I extend my thanks to the House Clerk, the Honorable Kevin McCumber, and his entire team for their leadership on this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank my colleagues and the staff for doing this and for the leadership of the Clerk's Office to find a way for us to end practices that are no longer useful and allow us to be able to focus more on the challenges we face moving forward.

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. MORELLE, for his work on this. As we all know, in the United States House of Representatives, actually sunset almost anything is one of the most challenging projects you can do, and I am proud to say that we have accomplished that with this piece of legislation.

The process involved a lot of work from the Clerk and others to make sure this was done. A little bit of efficiency in the House can go a long way. Take the wins where you get them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of sunseting this advisory committee, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9489.

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.

HOUSE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9487) to amend the Legislative

Reorganization Act of 1970 to authorize the Legislative Counsel of the House of Representatives to designate more than one of the attorneys of the Office of the Legislative Counsel as a Deputy Legislative Counsel, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 9487

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 "House Office of Legislative Counsel Modernization Act".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF MULTIPLE DEPUTY LEGISLATIVE COUNSELS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Section 522(b)(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 (2 U.S.C. 282a(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by amending the first sentence to read as follows: "The Legislative Counsel shall designate one or more of the attorneys appointed under subsection (a) as a Deputy Legislative Counsel."; and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking "the Deputy Legislative Counsel shall perform the functions of the Legislative Counsel." and inserting "the functions of the Legislative Counsel shall be performed by a Deputy Legislative Counsel. If there is more than one Deputy Legislative Counsel, the Deputy Legislative Counsel who shall perform such functions shall be determined in accordance with the order specified in a notice filed with the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the House by the Legislative Counsel.".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 522(b)(2) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 282a(b)(2)) is amended by striking "Deputy Legislative Counsel" and inserting "Deputy Legislative Counsels".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STEIL. 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 H.R. 9487, the House Office of Legislative Counsel Modernization Act.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 9487, the House Office of Legislative Counsel Modernization Act.

Originally called the Legislative Drafting Service, the Office of the Legislative Counsel has been providing legislative drafting services to the House for over 100 years. Since its inception, the office has helped countless Members of Congress turn their legislative ideas into thoughtful, meaningful bills and amendment text.

This legislation addresses a need raised by the Legislative Counsel team to help manage their team of experts. It would allow the designation of more

than one Deputy Legislative Counsel to help manage their office. Passage would give the Legislative Counsel flexibility to meet staffing needs and handle vacancies as they arise.

This small change would allow the Legislative Counsel to name one deputy to fulfill leadership responsibilities for the office upon a vacancy or any other issue. A well-equipped Legislative Counsel Office helps us as Members deliver for our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have worked with Ranking Member MORELLE on this effort to assist our Legislative Counsel. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 9487, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9487. This bipartisan bill amends the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 to clarify the responsibilities of the Deputy Legislative Counsel and grant the Legislative Counsel the authority to designate a deputy to carry out their duties in the event of an absence or vacancy in the position.

We may be repeating ourselves quite a bit here, but I think that just indicates our support and cooperation that we were able to generate to pass this package of bills, which I am grateful for.

The Office of the Legislative Counsel, as my learned colleague has indicated, plays an essential role in supporting the work of Congress by providing impartial and confidential drafting services to Members and committees. The office is critical in our ability to function as an institution, and it enables us to work more efficiently on behalf of the American people.

The expert attorneys within the Office of the Legislative Counsel draft tens of thousands of bills and resolutions each Congress. That number grows exponentially when accounting for the many drafts of measures as they are refined, as well as the increasing number of amendments submitted by Members to the various committees.

I would like to take a moment to briefly recognize two of those attorneys right now. First, I thank Wade Ballou for his more than 40 years of service with the office. That service culminated with his appointment to Legislative Counsel in 2016. Wade recently announced his retirement. I wish him well as he moves into the next phase of his professional and personal life.

I also recognize the Deputy Legislative Counsel, Noah Wofsy, for his outstanding leadership. He and his team do a masterful job of supporting the House's legislative agenda, including the Committee on House Administration in particular. We would not have been able to bring this measure to the floor or any others without their dedication, patience, and commitment to task.

As the demands on the Office of the Legislative Counsel will undoubtedly

continue to grow, it is vital we provide its attorneys with the support necessary for them to perform their jobs effectively. This includes ensuring the office has succession plans in place to maintain the continuity of congressional operations.

While this legislation may seem modest in scope, it is a critical step in strengthening the resilience of our institution, so I strongly urge my colleagues to support the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank my friend and colleague, Mr. STEIL, chairman of our committee, and the staff for their work on this.

Mr. Speaker, for all the reasons previously articulated, I think this is a fine piece of legislation that helps move the institution forward. I encourage all of my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this piece of legislation. As my colleague said, it may be modest in scope, but sometimes you take a small step forward when you can get it.

I am appreciative of all those who work in the Legislative Counsel's Office. My colleague recognized a few by name, and I second that comment. I think it is important to recognize the hard work that goes on inside the Office of the Legislative Counsel. This opportunity to modernize it to allow it to operate a little more efficiently is well worth our support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the 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 Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9487.

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.

SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CONGRESSIONAL TIME CAPSULE ACT

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6394) to provide for the creation of a Congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial of the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6394

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 "Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act".

SEC. 2. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CONGRESSIONAL TIME CAPSULE.

(a) CREATION BY ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL.—The Architect of the Capitol shall create a Congressional time capsule, to be