

In the late 1970s, the bald eagle was designated as endangered in many of the lower 48 States. Today, its population has recovered significantly, thanks to targeted conservation measures spearheaded by the Federal Government and private individuals. These included habitat protection, the banning of certain poisons and pesticides, and captive breeding programs, all of which led to the bald eagle being removed from the endangered species list and to its becoming a symbol of how the Endangered Species Act can save wildlife from extinction.

The bald eagle population in the lower 48 States has increased from 417 nesting pairs in 1963 to more than 71,400 nesting pairs and 316,700 individual birds today. In bringing this bill to the floor, we applaud the efforts of Senators AMY KLOBUCHAR, CYNTHIA LUMMIS, MARKWAYNE MULLIN, and TINA SMITH, as well as BRAD FINSTAD and ANGIE CRAIG.

I urge the House to pass this legislation to designate the bald eagle as the national bird, or as we say in Philadelphia, Go Birds.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation. I urge all Members to pass it, and send it to the President's desk.

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I echo the sentiments of my colleague from across the aisle and I urge my colleagues to support S. 4610.

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

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4610, the counterpart to my bipartisan legislation to recognize the bald eagle as the National Bird of the United States of America.

Throughout this process, I have had the pleasure of working with the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, Minnesota, and we are proud that they call southern Minnesota home.

As an undisputed symbol of our Nation, the bald eagle represents the strength and independence that we hold in our hearts as American citizens, and it is past time it is rightfully recognized as the national bird.

Since 1782, the bald eagle has been a symbol of America featured on the Great Seal; however it has never been officially designated as the national bird.

It remains a symbol of freedom across the country, as it is an emblem for all branches of the military and serves as a logo, trademark, and brand icon for businesses, nonprofits, and sports teams across the country.

It is also represented on our stamps, coins, and currency, holds spiritual value for our tribal communities, and so much more.

This bi-partisan, bi-cameral legislation gives the bald eagle the long-overdue recognition it deserves.

I would like to thank Senators KLOBUCHAR and LUMMIS, as well as Representative CRAIG for partnering with me on this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4610.

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.

FEDERAL JUDICIARY
STABILIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3998) to provide for the permanent appointment of certain temporary district judgeships.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3998

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 “Federal Judiciary Stabilization Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS IN THE DISTRICT COURTS.

(a) EXISTING JUDGESHIPS.—The existing judgeships for the district of Hawaii, the district of Kansas, and the eastern district of Missouri authorized by section 203(c) of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-650; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) and the existing judgeships for the northern district of Alabama, the district of Arizona, the central district of California, the southern district of Florida, the district of New Mexico, the western district of North Carolina, and the eastern district of Texas authorized by section 312(c) of the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act (Public Law 107-273; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) shall, as of the effective date of this Act, be authorized under section 133 of title 28, United States Code, and the incumbents in those offices shall hold the office under section 133 of title 28, United States Code, as amended by this Act.

(b) TABLES.—In order that the table contained in section 133 of title 28, United States Code, will, with respect to each judicial district, reflect the changes in the total number of permanent district judgeships authorized as a result of subsection (a) of this section, such table is amended—

(1) by striking the items relating to Alabama and inserting the following:

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|----------------|-----|
| “Alabama: | |
| Northern | 8 |
| Middle | 3 |
| Southern | 3”; |

(2) by striking the item relating to Arizona and inserting the following:

| | |
|----------------|------|
| “Arizona | 13”; |
|----------------|------|

(3) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

| | |
|----------------|------|
| “California: | |
| Northern | 14 |
| Eastern | 6 |
| Central | 28 |
| Southern | 13”; |

(4) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

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|----------------|------|
| “Florida: | |
| Northern | 4 |
| Middle | 15 |
| Southern | 18”; |

(5) by striking the item relating to Hawaii and inserting the following:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| “Hawaii | 4”; |
|---------------|-----|

(6) by striking the item relating to Kansas and inserting the following:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| “Kansas | 6”; |
|---------------|-----|

(7) by striking the items relating to Missouri and inserting the following:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| “Missouri: | |
| Eastern | 7 |
| Western | 5 |
| Eastern and Western | 2”; |

(8) by striking the item relating to New Mexico and inserting the following:

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|-------------------|-----|
| “New Mexico | 7”; |
|-------------------|-----|

(9) by striking the items relating to North Carolina and inserting the following:

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| “North Carolina: | |
| Eastern | 4 |
| Middle | 4 |
| Western | 5”; |

(10) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

| | |
|----------------|------|
| “Texas: | |
| Northern | 12 |
| Southern | 19 |
| Eastern | 8 |
| Western | 13”. |

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FRY) and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 3998.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has already taken the most important step to stabilizing our overworked Federal courts.

Last week, the House joined the Senate in decisively passing the JUDGES Act of 2024. Dozens of Democrats joined Republicans to finally add much-needed judgeships for the first time in 20 years. We urge the President to set aside partisan politics and sign the bill into law.

The bill before us today, S. 3998, is another piece of critical legislation aimed at relieving the backlog of our Federal courts. The Federal Judiciary Stabilization Act of 2024 further aids the Federal judiciary by converting 10 temporary judgeships into permanent ones.

Importantly, this bill does not create any new vacancies. Instead, this bill ensures that districts don't lose a judgeship if a judge retires or takes senior status after a temporary judgeship expires in the future.

This bill makes permanent judgeships in Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Texas. Passing this bill will provide stability

to the regions of those States that have come to rely on these temporary judgeships since their creation, in some cases more than 30 years ago.

This bill takes into account the recommendations of the Judicial Conference of the United States, and it is sorely needed.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 3998, the Federal Judiciary Stabilization Act of 2024, a bill to convert 10 temporary Federal judgeships to permanent seats.

Our country is facing a serious judicial shortage and has for some time. The last bill creating Federal district court judgeships was passed into law over 30 years ago.

Since that time, the Federal caseload has ballooned, and it has become increasingly difficult to ensure that Americans are able to have their day in court. This need spurred Republicans and Democrats to seek passage of the JUDGES Act earlier this year before the November election.

That bill was predicated on an agreement to give 25 judicial appointments to the unknown at that time next President. I was disappointed that Republican leadership held the bill until after the election in order to ensure that their candidate controlled the appointments.

It was very disappointing to have politics introduced on what should have been a bipartisan bill. We can't go back in time and pass the JUDGES Act before the election, but we can pass this legislation on a bipartisan basis to prevent the loss of 10 Federal judgeships when the current temporary judgeships expire.

Temporary judgeships are designed to help district courts reduce unusually large backlogs. Short-term judgeships look very similar to permanent ones. They are created by Congress, and the judges are appointed by the President to a lifetime judgeship.

However, after a temporary judgeship expires, the next person to retire or otherwise leave the bench in that judicial district is simply not replaced. That is exactly what will happen if these 10 temporary judgeships are allowed to lapse.

When a judge retires, no new nominees will be sent to Congress. Those judicial districts will lose judgeships on which they have relied for at least two decades, and Americans living in those districts will have trouble accessing justice.

We may call these judgeships temporary, but it is clear they are needed on a permanent basis. The 10 at issue today on S. 3998 have been reauthorized again and again. Since they were first authorized over 20 years ago, our Nation has grown, and with it, the demands on our Federal judicial system have grown too.

Making these 10 temporary judgeships permanent will ensure that people living and working in those communities have a Federal court system that is more responsive to their needs.

The Federal Judiciary Stabilization Act is a product of bipartisan, bicameral work. I thank my colleagues in both Chambers, Senators MAZIE HIRONO and TED CRUZ along with Representatives TED LIEU and LANCE GOODEN for their hard work on this bill.

The Senate passed this bill in April, so if the House passes it today, it will go directly to the President's desk. I am proud to support this bill. I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will strengthen the rule of law and access to justice, and provide stability to our judiciary by ensuring the number of Federal judges doesn't decrease when these temporary judgeships expire.

Each of these judicial districts has relied on these temporary judgeships for decades, and it is long past time that we make them permanent. This bill is a small, but meaningful step toward making our courthouse doors accessible to all Americans, regardless of where they live. I hope we can replicate this bipartisan work in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill, and send it to the President's desk, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I echo the comments of my colleague from across the aisle, and I urge my colleagues in the House to support this bipartisan, bicameral piece of legislation, S. 3998, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3998.

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. FRY. 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.

JAMES MOUNTAIN INHOFE VA MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 5314) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the James Mountain Inhofe VA Medical Center.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 5314

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF JAMES MOUNTAIN INHOFE VA MEDICAL CENTER.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs under

construction as of the date of the enactment of this Act at 440 South Houston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma, shall after such date of enactment be known and designated as the “James Mountain Inhofe Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center” or the “James Mountain Inhofe VA Medical Center”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the James Mountain Inhofe VA Medical Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SELF). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 5314.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 5314, a bill to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the James Mountain Inhofe VA Medical Center.

Senator James Inhofe was born in 1934 in Des Moines, Iowa. He was drafted into the Army in 1956 and served until 1958. After serving in Oklahoma State politics and serving as the mayor of Tulsa, Senator Inhofe was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives representing Oklahoma's First District.

Senator Inhofe then represented the State of Oklahoma in the United States Senate from 1994 until 2023. Senator Inhofe chaired the Senate Armed Services Committee, and was instrumental in passing legislation which ensures our Nation's defense and the well-being of our servicemembers.

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Senator Inhofe will be remembered for his long legacy of public service, from the U.S. Army to the U.S. Senate, and I am proud to name this VA medical center after him.

Anyone who knew Senator Inhofe knew how much he cared for our Nation's men and women in uniform. I thank the sponsor of this bill, Senator LANKFORD, as well as the entire Oklahoma delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 5314, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise to express my support for S. 5314, a bill to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the James Mountain Inhofe VA Medical Center, introduced by Senator LANKFORD of Oklahoma.