

American innovators and businesses better protect their inventions overseas.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have no other speakers on this side, and I yield back the balance of my time, as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3486.

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.

21ST CENTURY LANGUAGE ACT OF 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2367) to strike the word "lunatic" from Federal law, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2367

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 "21st Century Language Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. MODERNIZATION OF LANGUAGE REFERRING TO PERSONS WHO ARE MENTALLY ILL.

(a) WORDS DENOTING NUMBER, GENDER, AND SO FORTH.—Section 1 of title 1, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "and 'lunatic'"; and

(2) by striking "lunatic".

(b) BANKING LAW PROVISIONS.—

(1) TRUST POWERS.—The first section of the Act entitled "An Act to place authority over the trust powers of national banks in the Comptroller of the Currency", approved September 28, 1962 (12 U.S.C. 92a), is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking "committee of estates of lunatics"; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking "committee of estates of lunatics".

(2) CONSOLIDATION AND MERGERS OF BANKS.—The National Bank Consolidation and Merger Act (12 U.S.C. 215 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 2 (12 U.S.C. 215)—

(i) in subsection (e), by striking "receiver, and committee of estates of lunatics" and inserting "and receiver"; and

(ii) in subsection (f), by striking "receiver, or committee of estates of lunatics" and inserting "or receiver"; and

(B) in section 3 (12 U.S.C. 215a)—

(i) in subsection (e), by striking "receiver, and committee of estates of lunatics" and inserting "and receiver"; and

(ii) in subsection (f), by striking "receiver, or committee of estates of lunatics" and inserting "or receiver".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. 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 materials on S. 2367, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the 21st Century Language Act is a relatively simple bill. It strikes the word "lunatic" from the United States Code.

The term "lunatic" derives from the Latin word for "moon." Before the modern era, it was used to describe a person who suffers from mental disease because of the belief that lunar cycles had an impact on brain function. But as science and medicine have progressed, society has come to understand mental illness with more clarity.

Senator CONRAD and Senator CRAPO introduced the legislation under consideration to strike the word "lunatic" from the United States Code. I thank them for their effort, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this bill to modernize our codified law to reflect a 21st-century understanding of mental illness.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill eliminates outdated references in the U.S. Code that stigmatize individuals with mental illness issues. This legislation easily passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support.

The bill eliminates the word "lunatic" from several sections of the United States Code in order for our Code to reflect meanings which are much more appropriate and up to date in the 21st century.

In the past, Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle have worked together to address similar terms in the Code which negatively describe individuals with mental health issues. For example, in 2010, Rosa's Law passed in Congress with bipartisan support and was later signed into law. The law replaced parts of the Code containing the phrase "having mental retardation" with the phrase "having intellectual disabilities."

The term "lunatic" holds a place in antiquity and should no longer have a prominent place in our U.S. Code. Although the bill does not replace the word with another term, it follows the precedence of Congress to study semantics and continuously improves the status and appropriateness of our Nation's laws by addressing pejorative terms.

I applaud the bipartisan group of Senators—Senators CONRAD, CRAPO, and JOHANNIS—for their work on this

legislation. In addition, the bill shares strong support among our Nation's leading mental health advocates.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2367.

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. SCOTT of Virginia. 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 question will be postponed.

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 10 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 11 o'clock and 17 minutes a.m.

ELIMINATE PRIVACY NOTICE CONFUSION ACT

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my motion that the House suspend the rules with regard to H.R. 5817.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion is withdrawn.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

S. Con. Res. 50, H.R. 6602, and S. 2367, in each case by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SENSE OF CONGRESS ON GOVERNANCE OF THE INTERNET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in