

rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1635, EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH ENHANCED FINANCIAL COUNSELING ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4606, ENSURING SMALL SCALE LNG CERTAINTY AND ACCESS ACT**

Ms. CHENEY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-919) on the resolution (H. Res. 1049) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1635) to amend the loan counseling requirements under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4606) to provide that applications under the Natural Gas Act for the importation or exportation of small volumes of natural gas shall be granted without modification or delay, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

**TSA NATIONAL DEPLOYMENT FORCE ACT**

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6461) to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish in the Transportation Security Administration a National Deployment Office, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6461

*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 “TSA National Deployment Force Act”.

**SEC. 2. NATIONAL DEPLOYMENT OFFICE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 449 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§ 44947. National Deployment Office**

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Transportation Security Administration a National Deployment Office, to be headed by an individual with supervisory experience. Such individual shall be designated by the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

“(b) DUTIES.—The individual designated as the head of the National Deployment Office shall be responsible for the following:

“(1) Maintaining a National Deployment Force within the Transportation Security Administration that is comprised of transportation security officers, including supervisory transportation security officers and lead transportation security officers, to provide the Administration with rapid and efficient response capabilities and augment the Department of Homeland Security’s homeland security operations to mitigate and reduce risk, including for the following:

“(A) Airports temporarily requiring additional security personnel due to an emer-

gency, seasonal demands, hiring shortfalls, severe weather conditions, passenger volume mitigation, equipment support, or other reasons.

“(B) Special events requiring enhanced security including National Special Security Events, as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

“(C) Response in the aftermath of any manmade disaster, including any terrorist attack.

“(D) Other such situations, as determined by the Administrator.

“(2) Educating transportation security officers regarding how to participate in the Administration’s National Deployment Force.

“(3) Recruiting officers to serve on the National Deployment Force, in accordance with a staffing model to be developed by the Administrator.

“(4) Approving one-year appointments for officers to serve on the National Deployment Force, with an option to extend upon officer request and with the approval of the appropriate Federal Security Director.

“(5) Training officers to serve on the National Deployment Force.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for subchapter II of chapter 449 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“44947. National Deployment Office.”.

**SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**

Subsection (f) of section 114 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (14), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (15) as paragraph (16); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (14) the following new paragraph:

“(15) establish and maintain a National Deployment Office as required under section 44947 of this title; and”.

**SEC. 4. CAREER DEVELOPMENT.**

The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration may consider service in the National Deployment Force as a positive factor when evaluating applicants for promotion opportunities within the Transportation Security Administration.

**SEC. 5. ANNUAL REPORT.**

Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report regarding activities of the National Deployment Office, including the National Deployment Force, established under section 44947 of title 49, United States Code, as added by section 2 of this Act. Each such report shall include information relating to the following:

(1) When, where, why, how many, and for how long the National Deployment Force was deployed throughout the 12-month period covered by such report and the costs associated with such deployment.

(2) A description of collaboration between the National Deployment Office and other components of the Department of Homeland Security, other Federal agencies, and State and local transportation security stakeholders.

(3) The size of the National Deployment Force, including information on the staffing model of such Force and adherence to such model as established by the Administrator.

(4) Information on recruitment, appointment, and training activities, including processes utilized to attract, recruit, appoint, and train officers to serve on the National Deployment Force.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6461, the TSA National Deployment Force Act, sponsored by my good friend and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Protective Security, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

TSA security operations happen 365 days per year at nearly 440 federalized airports. Our Nation depends on the professionals at TSA who are on the front lines every single day to keep our transportation systems moving and secure.

In testimony before the committee, Administrator Pekoske has stated that TSA’s greatest assets are its people, and I could not agree more. Transportation security officers are tasked with a zero-fail mission, and their dedication to duty is what helps keep traveling Americans secure when they fly within our civil aviation system.

With a strengthening economy, passenger volume has surged over the past few years and is expected to go much higher in the years to come, and TSA has often struggled to accommodate massive traveler volume increases at checkpoints. However, one of the most practical, useful, and helpful tools in TSA’s toolbox, the National Deployment Force, helps TSA alleviate long lines at airport checkpoints, providing both a national security value by minimizing public area security risk and providing efficiency by reducing passenger wait times.

This legislation authorizes the National Deployment Force, or NDF, within TSA to provide rapid and efficient response capabilities.

The NDF is comprised of transportation security officers who may be deployed across the country to supplement existing TSA staffing during periods of high seasonal demand, natural disasters, national special security events, or other scenarios requiring additional security screening support.

Recently, the NDF has provided critical screening support for large-scale events requiring additional security, such as the Super Bowl and in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Given the anticipated increases in passenger growth, this bipartisan legislation will help ensure that TSA has the resources