

The Deploying American Blockchains Act will help rectify this trend by requiring the Secretary of Commerce to create a program to help promote the competitiveness of the United States in the deployment, use, and application of blockchains.

Instead of pushing American innovators abroad, the Department of Commerce should work with American innovators to build their products here.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Deploying American Blockchains Act.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I will close by saying that, again, this is important in terms of our competitiveness globally.

I ask all our colleagues to vote in favor of this bill on a bipartisan basis, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a "yes" vote on this particular 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 Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6572, as amended.

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. BILIRAKIS. 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.

AWNING SAFETY ACT OF 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6132) to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a mandatory consumer product safety standard with respect to retractable awnings.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6132

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 "Awning Safety Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD FOR RETRACTABLE AWNINGS.

(a) CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD REQUIRED.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall promulgate, under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, a final consumer product safety standard for fixed and freestanding retractable awnings within the jurisdiction of the Commission to protect against the risk of death or serious injury related to the hazards associated with such awnings, including the risk of death or serious injury related to the awning unexpectedly opening and striking a person while removing the bungee tie-downs for the cover of the awning.

(b) CPSC DETERMINATION OF SCOPE.—The Consumer Product Safety Commission shall specify the types of retractable awning devices within the jurisdiction of the Commission that are within the scope of subsection (a) as part of a standard promulgated under this section, as reasonably necessary to protect against hazards associated with retractable awnings.

(c) TREATMENT OF STANDARD.—A consumer product safety standard promulgated under subsection (a) shall be treated as a consumer product safety rule promulgated under sections 7 and 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2056 and 2058).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. 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 this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, first, I thank Representatives BALDERSON and CASTOR for introducing this particular piece of legislation, H.R. 6132, the Awning Safety Act, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank our constituents for bringing these issues to our attention. We really appreciate it. I appreciate the chairwoman and the ranking member because they are bringing these issues forward, and they need to be passed unanimously in the House and go over to the Senate. It is so very important.

Motorized awnings pose a known hazard to the public with about 270,000 units being subject to a recall by the manufacturer facilitated by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in August of 2019.

This product is associated with many incidents, including at least one report of a death and six serious injuries.

The death involved a 73-year-old man who died after falling from a ladder over an elevated porch when the motorized awning opened and unexpectedly struck him.

There is currently no voluntary standard for motorized awnings, and the recall only covered one manufacturer of the products.

H.R. 6132 will save lives and will require the CPSC to promulgate a mandatory standard regarding these home retractable awnings, which is within the jurisdiction of the CPSC.

This is a commonsense bill, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to support this particular bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 6132, the Awning Safety Act. In 2019, the Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a recall of 270,000 motorized awnings that had caused six injuries and, tragically, one death.

These products are a known hazard to the public, and while I commend the CPSC for taking action in 2019, we must do more to ensure motorized awning products, regardless of brand or manufacturer, are safe.

The Awning Safety Act before us today would require the CPSC to create a mandatory safety standard for fixed and freestanding retractable awnings.

Currently, there is no standard, voluntary or mandatory, for these awnings, and injuries continue to mount.

Just last year, Dr. Michael Hnat, the father of a former Republican committee staffer, tragically died as a result of an incident involving a retractable awning.

We must act to ensure that other American families do not suffer a similar tragedy because of problems with retractable awnings.

I commend Representative CASTOR, the Democratic lead on this bill, and Congressman BALDERSON for their bipartisan work and leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6132, the Awning Safety Act.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Awning Safety Act, which aims to enhance the safety of awnings commonly found in Ohio homes and households across the Nation.

A retractable awning can serve as a valuable source of shade and a gathering spot for family and friends. However, it can pose a significant risk if not properly handled.

This legislation directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish safety standards for fixed and freestanding awnings being typically installed in homes.

My Energy and Commerce Committee colleagues and I learned of the serious risk surrounding the awnings this past August when tragedy struck the family of Olivia Shields, a staff member for the committee at the time. Olivia and her mother are in the gallery as I speak.

Her father, Michael Hnat, was carrying out a routine household task, taking down the retractable awning from the family home.

He was on a ladder when the spring-loaded arm of the awning unexpectedly shot out at him, forcing his ladder to tip and causing him to fall.

Michael suffered a severe spinal cord injury, and despite efforts to save him, he tragically passed away a few days later.

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His passing affected his family profoundly and reverberated throughout the communities he touched. Michael was renowned for his kindness, generosity, and selflessness, often going above and beyond to help others in need.

He was a devoted family man, a cherished husband to Jill, and a loving father to their children, Annaliese, Olivia, Abbey, Seamus, Emma, his sons-in-law, and his grandchildren. Michael's untimely death underscores the importance of ensuring the safety of household products like awnings, and by passing this legislation today, we can prevent future tragedies.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), the Democratic sponsor of this bill and the ranking member of our Energy and Commerce's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. PALLONE for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6132, the Awning Safety Act, which passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously. I thank Representative BALDERSON for working with me and leading this important consumer protection bill that will prompt the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a safety standard for fixed and free-standing motorized, retractable awnings.

Awnings are common for households across the country. The last thing a person should be worried about is a defective product, but in 2019, a motorized product was recalled after 14 incidents, including one fatal injury. The CPSC worked quickly with the manufacturer to recall the product and provide a remedy for consumers, but all consumers deserve protection.

It is important that the CPSC continues this work to save lives and keep families safe. That is why Representative BALDERSON and I are offering this bill to provide oversight and increased safety, empower the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and help prevent other families from suffering through tragic injuries and even deaths.

Consumers and their children deserve to enjoy the great outdoors without the fear of injury or death from products they presume to be safe. I thank the committee's chairwoman, CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, for encouraging us in this effort, as well as Ranking Member PALLONE and the entire committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill. Obviously, we have to prevent more tragedies like what occurred. I ask unanimous support for this legislation.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote. I thank my colleagues,

Representative CASTOR from the State of Florida, and, of course, Mr. BALDERSON from the great State of Ohio for sponsoring the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6132.

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.

TRANSPARENCY IN CHARGES FOR KEY EVENTS TICKETING ACT

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3950) to require sellers of event tickets to disclose comprehensive information to consumers about ticket prices and related fees, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3950

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 "Transparency In Charges for Key Events Ticketing Act" or the "TICKET Act".

SEC. 2. ALL INCLUSIVE TICKET PRICE DISCLOSURE.

Beginning 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, it shall be unlawful for a ticket issuer, secondary market ticket issuer, or secondary market ticket exchange to offer for sale an event ticket unless the ticket issuer, secondary market ticket issuer, or secondary market ticket exchange—

(1) clearly and conspicuously displays the total event ticket price, if a price is displayed, in any advertisement, marketing, or price list wherever the ticket is offered for sale;

(2) clearly and conspicuously discloses to any individual who seeks to purchase an event ticket the total event ticket price at the time the ticket is first displayed to the individual and anytime thereafter throughout the ticket purchasing process; and

(3) provides an itemized list of the base event ticket price and each event ticket fee prior to the completion of the ticket purchasing process.

SEC. 3. SPECULATIVE TICKETING BAN.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Beginning 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, a ticket issuer, secondary market ticket issuer, or secondary market ticket exchange that does not have actual or constructive possession of an event ticket shall not sell, offer for sale, or advertise for sale such event ticket.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a secondary market ticket issuer or secondary market ticket exchange from offering a service to a consumer to obtain an event ticket on behalf of the consumer if the secondary market ticket issuer or secondary market ticket exchange complies with the following:

(1) Does not market or list the service as an event ticket.

(2) Maintains a clear, distinct, and easily discernible separation between the service and event tickets through unavoidable visual demarcation that persists throughout the entire service selection and purchasing process.

(3) Clearly and conspicuously discloses before selection of the service that the service is not an event ticket and that the purchase of the service does not guarantee an event ticket.

(4) In the event the service is unable to obtain the specified event ticket purchased through the service for the consumer, provides the consumer that purchased the service, within a reasonable amount of time—

(A) a full refund for the total cost of the service to obtain an event ticket on behalf of the consumer; or

(B) subject to availability, a replacement event ticket in the same or a comparable location with the approval of the consumer.

(5) Does not obtain more tickets in each transaction than the numerical limitations for tickets set by the venue and artist for each respective event.

SEC. 4. DECEPTIVE WEBSITES.

A ticket issuer, secondary market ticket issuer, or secondary market ticket exchange—

(1) shall provide a clear and conspicuous statement, before a visitor purchases an event ticket from the ticket issuer, secondary market ticket issuer, or secondary market ticket exchange that the issuer or exchange is engaged in the secondary sale of event tickets;

(2) shall not state that the ticket issuer, secondary market ticket issuer, or secondary market ticket exchange is affiliated with or endorsed by a venue, team, or artist, as applicable, unless a partnership agreement has been executed, including by (3) shall not use a domain name, or any subdomain thereof, in the URL of the ticket issuer, secondary market ticket issuer, or secondary market ticket exchange that contains—

using words like "official" in promotional materials, social media promotions, search engine optimization, paid advertising, or search engine monetization unless the issuer or exchange has the express written consent of the venue, team, or artist, as applicable; and

(A) the name of a specific team, league, or venue where concerts, sports, or other live entertainment events are held, unless authorized by the owner of the name;

(B) the name of the exhibition or performance or of another event described in subparagraph (A), including the name of a person, team, performance, group, or entity scheduled to perform at any such venue or event, unless authorized by the owner of the name;

(C) any trademark or copyright not owned by the ticket issuer, secondary market ticket issuer, or secondary market ticket exchange, including any trademark or copyright owned by an authorized agent or partner of the venue or event identified in subparagraph (A) and (B); or

(D) any name substantially similar to those described in subparagraphs (A) and (B), including any misspelling of any such name.

SEC. 5. REFUND REQUIREMENTS.

(a) CANCELLATION.—Beginning 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, if an event is canceled or postponed (except for a case in which an event is canceled or postponed due to a cause beyond the reasonable control of the ticket issuer, including a natural disaster, civil disturbance, or otherwise unforeseeable impediment), a ticket issuer, secondary market ticket issuer, or secondary market ticket exchange shall provide the consumer, at the option of the purchaser, at a minimum—

(1) a full refund for the total cost of the event ticket, any event ticket fee, and any tax; or

(2) subject to availability, if the event is postponed, a replacement event ticket in the same or a comparable location once the event has been rescheduled, with the approval of the consumer.

(b) DISCLOSURE OF GUARANTEE AND REFUND POLICY REQUIRED.—Beginning 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, a ticket issuer, secondary market ticket issuer, or secondary market ticket exchange shall disclose clearly and conspicuously before the completion