

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2565) was passed.

“THOMAS S. FOLEY FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE”

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 249, H.R. 211.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 211) to designate the Federal building and the United States courthouse located at West 920 Riverside Avenue in Spokane, Washington, as the “Thomas S. Foley Federal Building and United States Courthouse” and the plaza at the south entrance of such building and courthouse as the “Walter F. Horan Plaza.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to lay upon the table be agreed to, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 211) was read the third time and passed.

AUTHORITIES TO THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1546, introduced earlier today by Senators NICKLES, LIEBERMAN and HAGEL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1546) to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to provide additional administrative authorities to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and to make technical corrections to that act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1546) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1546

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

SECTION 1. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION.—Section 201 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “The” and inserting “(1) IN GENERAL.—The”;

(2) by inserting after the first sentence the following new sentences: “The term of each member of the Commission appointed to the first two-year term of the Commission shall be considered to have begun on May 15, 1999, and shall end on May 14, 2001, regardless of the date of appointment to the Commission. The term of each member of the Commission appointed to the second two-year term of the Commission shall begin on May 15, 2001, and shall end on May 14, 2003, regardless of the date of appointment to the Commission. In the case in which a vacancy in the membership of the Commission is filled during a two-year term of the Commission, such membership on the Commission shall terminate at the end of that two-year term of the Commission.”; and

(3) by amending subsection (h) to read as follows:

“(h) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission on a reimbursable basis (or, in the discretion of the Administrator, on a non-reimbursable basis) such administrative support services as the Commission may request to carry out the provisions of this title.”.

(b) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking section 202(f);

(2) by redesignating sections 203, 204, 205, and 206 as sections 205, 206, 207, and 209, respectively;

(3) by inserting after section 202 the following:

“SEC. 203. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out its duties under this title, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places in the United States, take testimony and receive evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out the purposes of this Act.

“(b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission, subject to applicable law.

“(c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

“(d) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.—The Commission may adopt such rules and regulations, relating to administrative procedure, as may be reasonably necessary to enable it to carry out the provisions of this title.

“(e) VIEWS OF THE COMMISSION.—The Members of the Commission may speak in their capacity as private citizens. Statements on behalf of the Commission shall be issued in writing over the names of the Members. The Commission shall in its written statements clearly describe its statutory authority, distinguishing that authority from that of appointed or elected officials of the United States Government. Oral statements, where practicable, shall include a similar description.

“(f) TRAVEL.—The Members of the Commission may, with the approval of the Commission, conduct such travel as is necessary to carry out the purpose of this title. Each trip must be approved by a majority of the Commission. This provision shall not apply

to the Ambassador-at-Large, whose travel shall not require approval by the Commission.

“SEC. 204. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an Executive Director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties. The decision to employ or terminate an Executive Director shall be made by an affirmative vote of at least six of the nine members of the Commission.

“(b) COMPENSATION.—The Commission may fix the compensation of the Executive Director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the Executive Director and other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

“(c) PROFESSIONAL STAFF.—The Commission and the Executive Director shall hire Commission staff on the basis of professional and nonpartisan qualifications. Commissioners may not individually hire staff of the Commission. Staff shall serve the Commission as a whole and may not be assigned to the particular service of a single Commissioner or a specified group of Commissioners. This subsection does not prohibit staff personnel from assisting individual members of the Commission with particular needs related to their duties.

“(d) STAFF AND SERVICES OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

“(1) DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—The Secretary of State shall assist the Commission by providing on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis to the Commission such staff and administrative services as may be necessary and appropriate to perform its functions.

“(2) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal department or agency may detail, on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of that department or agency to the Commission to assist it in carrying out its functions under this title. The detail of any such personnel shall be without interruption or loss of civil service or Foreign Service status or privilege.

“(e) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—The Executive Director shall be required to obtain a security clearance. The Executive Director may request, on a needs-only basis and in order to perform the duties of the Commission, that other personnel of the Commission be required to obtain a security clearance. The level of clearance shall be the lowest necessary to appropriately perform the duties of the Commission.”;

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* * * COST.—The Commission shall reimburse all appropriate government agencies for the cost of obtaining clearances for members of the Commission, for the executive director, and for any other personnel;

(4) in section 207(a) (as redesignated by this Act), by striking all that follows “3,000,000” and inserting “to carry out the provisions of this title.”; and

(5) by inserting after section 207 (as redesignated) the following:

“SEC. 208. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND DISCLOSURE.

“(a) COOPERATION WITH NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND CONGRESS.—The Commission shall seek to effectively and freely cooperate with all entities engaged in the promotion of