

H.R. 861

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

SECTION 1. VACATION OF AWARDS.

Section 10 of title 9, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by indenting the margin of paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a) 2 ems;

(2) by striking "Where" in such paragraphs and inserting "where";

(3) by striking the period at the end of paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a) and inserting a semicolon and by adding "or" at the end of paragraph (3);

(4) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(5) in paragraph (5), by striking "Where an award" and inserting "If an award", by inserting a comma after "expired", and by redesignating the paragraph as subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 861, and in so doing, feel inclined to paraphrase Daniel Webster, who, in defending Dartmouth College, noted that "It may be small, but there are those who love it."

Nothing could be more true with this bill, as H.R. 861 makes a truly technical correction of the most non-controversial nature. It simply corrects section 10 of title 9 of the United States Code, which is a typographical flaw that has long evaded detection.

This section enumerates several grounds for vacating an arbitrator's award, with each ground beginning with the word "where." The fifth clause of section 10, however, is obviously not a ground for vacating an award, but rather, the beginning of a new sentence. This bill corrects this error.

However small this change may be, through the years this bill, which has come to be known as "the comma bill," has engendered great affection.

□ 1130

Some may try to diminish the importance of this bill, but one should never underestimate the importance of a comma.

To paraphrase the late Everett Dirksen, a comma here, a comma there, and pretty soon you have got a full sentence.

Let us be honest with ourselves, when used properly, a comma can be devastatingly effective. For those, especially school children, who think that grammar and punctuation do not matter and tune themselves out during English class, today's action shows clearly that it does.

Thankfully, not every grammar mistake, not every misplaced comma takes an act of Congress to correct, but this particular section of the United States Code does.

This bill has been passed by each of the past two Congresses, only to be held hostage by unrelated issues in the other body.

To my colleagues here and on the other side of the Capitol who have previously loaded up this bill with unrelated legislation, I say free the comma, and I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 861.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in total unanimous support for the comma bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 861.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 725, by the yeas and nays; and

H.R. 861, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

MADE IN AMERICA INFORMATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 725, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 725, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 3, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 48]

YEAS—407

Abercrombie	Dooley	Kildee
Aderholt	Doollittle	Kilpatrick
Akin	Doyle	Kind (WI)
Allen	Dreier	King (NY)
Andrews	Duncan	Kingston
Armey	Dunn	Kirk
Baca	Ehlers	Kleczka
Bachus	Ehrlich	Knollenberg
Baird	Emerson	Kolbe
Baker	Engel	Kucinich
Baldacci	English	LaFalce
Baldwin	Eshoo	LaHood
Ballenger	Etheridge	Lampson
Barcia	Evans	Langevin
Barr	Everett	Lantos
Barrett	Farr	Largent
Bartlett	Fattah	Larsen (WA)
Bass	Filner	Larson (CT)
Bentsen	Fletcher	Latham
Bereuter	Foley	LaTourette
Berkley	Ford	Leach
Berman	Fossella	Levin
Berry	Frank	Lewis (CA)
Biggart	Frost	Lewis (GA)
Bilirakis	Galleghy	Lewis (KY)
Bishop	Ganske	Linder
Blagojevich	Gekas	Lipinski
Blumenauer	Gephardt	LoBiondo
Blunt	Gibbons	Lofgren
Boehlert	Gilchrest	Lowey
Boehner	Gillmor	Lucas (KY)
Bonilla	Gilman	Lucas (OK)
Bonior	Gonzalez	Luther
Bono	Goode	Maloney (CT)
Borski	Goodlatte	Maloney (NY)
Boswell	Gordon	Manzullo
Boucher	Goss	Markey
Boyd	Graham	Mascara
Brady (PA)	Granger	Matheson
Brady (TX)	Graves	Matsui
Brown (OH)	Green (TX)	McCarthy (MO)
Brown (SC)	Green (WI)	McCarthy (NY)
Bryant	Greenwood	McCollum
Burr	Grucci	McCrery
Burton	Gutierrez	McDermott
Buyer	Gutknecht	McGovern
Callahan	Hall (OH)	McHugh
Calvert	Hall (TX)	McInnis
Camp	Hansen	McIntyre
Cantor	Harman	McKeon
Capito	Hart	McKinney
Capps	Hastings (FL)	McNulty
Capuano	Hastings (WA)	Meehan
Cardin	Hayes	Meeks (NY)
Carson (IN)	Hayworth	Menendez
Carson (OK)	Hefley	Mica
Castle	Hergert	Millender-
Chabot	Hill	McDonald
Chambliss	Hilleary	Miller (FL)
Clay	Hilliard	Miller, Gary
Clayton	Hinchee	Mink
Clement	Hinojosa	Mollohan
Clyburn	Hobson	Moore
Coble	Hoeffel	Moran (KS)
Collins	Hoekstra	Moran (VA)
Combest	Holden	Morella
Condit	Honda	Murtha
Conyers	Hooley	Myrick
Cooksey	Horn	Nadler
Costello	Hostettler	Napolitano
Cox	Houghton	Neal
Coyne	Hoyer	Nethercutt
Cramer	Hulshof	Ney
Crane	Hutchinson	Northup
Crenshaw	Hyde	Norwood
Crowley	Inslee	Nussle
Cubin	Isakson	Oberstar
Culberson	Israel	Obey
Cummings	Issa	Olver
Cunningham	Istook	Ortiz
Davis (CA)	Jackson (IL)	Osborne
Davis (FL)	Jackson-Lee	Ose
Davis, Jo Ann	(TX)	Otter
Davis, Tom	Jenkins	Owens
Deal	John	Oxley
DeFazio	Johnson (CT)	Pallone
DeGette	Johnson (IL)	Pascarell
Delahunt	Johnson, Sam	Pastor
DeLauro	Jones (NC)	Payne
DeLay	Jones (OH)	Pelosi
DeMint	Kanjorski	Pence
Deutsch	Kaptur	Peterson (MN)
Diaz-Balart	Kelly	Peterson (PA)
Dicks	Kennedy (MN)	Petri
Dingell	Kennedy (RI)	Phelps
Doggett	Kerns	Pickering