

may pass before the public is made aware of the presence of potentially harmful contaminants.

H.R. 2093 directs EPA to reduce the testing time from the current 24 hours to less than six hours, with the hope that communities can provide same day results on the condition of their local waters. To be clear, this legislation does not require that an approvable test actually take six hours, but establishes six hours as the absolute maximum time allowed for an approvable rapid testing method. If science dictates that the amount of testing time can be less than six hours, this bill allows EPA to approve a "more rapid" testing methodology.

It is my understanding that the scientific community believes that current technology is capable of producing a reliable rapid testing methodology that can produce results in two to three hours. This technology could be readily adopted by EPA under the revised definition, and the Agency is encouraged to adopt the shortest, reliable testing methodology possible.

Mr. Speaker, simply put, this reauthorization of the BEACH Act focuses on providing State and local governments with the tools they need to protect public health and reduce the incidence of water-borne illness. As we are in the midst of the summer vacation season, let us make sure that a family trip to the beach will not also result in a trip to the doctor's office.

I urge my colleague to support H.R. 2093.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Again, I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member and my chairman, Ms. Johnson. I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I know that time is short, so I'll be very brief. This is a very important bill to the Nation's beaches, and I represent a coastal area.

Basically, a few years ago, we passed the original BEACH Act, which allowed for the testing of ocean waters so that people would know, as sort of a right-to-know measure, when to go into the water and when not to. It has been very successful in keeping beaches clean and in notifying people when they shouldn't go swimming or when beaches have been cleaned up and they can go back into the water. We found out that we needed some better protection, and that is what we're doing with this bill today.

It calls for more rapid testing, within 24 hours—well, within a few hours, I should say—because, in the past, sometimes it would take 24 to 48 hours before we would know whether beaches should be closed. So there is a much more rapid testing method, which is within a few hours. In addition to that, the grants allow for the support for actually preventing beach closings and for using the Federal money for tracking so that, actually, the waters do not become more polluted.

So there are a lot of improvements in this bill over the current BEACH Act, and I urge its passage. I think we can get it signed into law quickly.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I thank the chairwoman for yielding, and I will be even more brief than Mr. PALLONE.

Mr. Speaker, let me simply thank Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Chairman OBERSTAR, and Chairwoman JOHNSON for their leadership on this issue.

This bill builds on the successes of the original BEACH Act. It implements rapid testing procedures which are vitally important. It provides a significantly larger authorization for the grants, and I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of eastern Long Island, I would like to commend Chairman OBERSTAR, Chairwoman JOHNSON and Congressmen PALLONE and BILBRAY for their leadership and unwavering dedication to clean water issues. I would also like to thank the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff for their hard work and commitment to advancing this legislation to the full House today.

My district encompasses 300 miles of coastline, and I'm very proud to represent some of this country's most popular and beautiful beaches. Maintaining coastal health is an integral objective toward preserving the Nation's environment and sustaining the tourist economies of our States. The beach-going public that flocked to our Nation's shores this summer reminds us that we deserve pristine waterways to enjoy with our families and that we need to preserve them for future generations of Americans.

The water quality monitoring and notification grants established in the original BEACH Act have been absolutely vital to protecting the health of beachgoers on our shores. Today, with the consideration of H.R. 2093, the Clean Coastal Environment and Public Health Act of 2009, we can continue to assure the American public that preserving healthy shores is a priority of our environmental agenda.

After EPA reports marked progress but raised questions about the implementation of the BEACH Act, it has become clear that further development of the legislation was needed. That is why Mr. PALLONE, the author of the original BEACH Act, and I decided to pool our resources to advance better legislation to fix problems and fund grant programs.

The Pallone/Bishop/Bilbray legislation reauthorizes the BEACH Act through fiscal year 2013 and increases authorization for funding from \$30 million to \$40 million, annually. This bipartisan legislation requires development and implementation of rapid testing methods to ensure that the public is notified of potential health concerns related to water quality in hours rather than days and enhances existing public notification requirements.

In the 110th Congress, a nearly identical bill was agreed to by this committee and passed on the House floor—both by voice vote. Unfortunately, the Senate did not act on the bill.

One in ten tourists is destined for the beach this summer—providing our travel and vacation industries with customers and business. I

hope my colleagues agree that the BEACH Act is an excellent example of an effective government program that benefits communities in every region of the country and has yielded tremendous progress in restoring healthy shores.

Mr. Speaker, with the leadership and support of this body, we can ensure that beach visitors throughout the country are assured that local governments have all the resources they need to monitor recreational waters and alert the public of potential health hazards.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the sponsor of this legislation, Mr. PALLONE, and our colleagues on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. BISHOP and Mr. HALL, for introducing this important legislation. Further, I appreciate and respect the fact that Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. MICA and Mr. BOOZMAN helped with this as well, so I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2093, 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. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3326, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-233) on the resolution (H. Res. 685) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3326) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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:

- H.R. 1293, by the yeas and nays;
- H.R. 556, de novo;
- H.R. 509, de novo;
- H. Res. 616, de novo;