

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank my colleague from Texas for yielding, and I also thank my colleague on the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of H.R. 3632 is to implement noncontroversial administrative provisions that the Judicial Conference and the House Judiciary Committee believe are necessary to improve the operations of the Federal judiciary and to provide justice for the American people.

The Judicial Conference is the policymaking body of the Federal judiciary, and through its committee system, it evaluates court operations. The Conference endorses all of the provisions in the bill.

H.R. 3632 affects a wide range of judicial branch programs and operations, including those pertaining to financial administration, process improvements and personnel administration.

The bill incorporates nine separate items, which, Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD at this point.

A section that clarifies that senior judges must satisfy minimum work thresholds to participate in court government matters, including the selection of magistrates.

A section that eliminates the references to divisions and counties in the statutory description of the Judicial District of North Dakota, which enables the court to better distribute the workload between two active district judges and reduce travel for litigants in the northern central area of the district.

A section that authorizes the "statement of reasons" that judges must issue upon sentencing to be filed separately with the court. Current law requires the statement to be bundled with other information in the case file distributed to the Sentencing Commission, where it can be difficult to maintain a seal related to confidential information.

A section that specifies that federal pretrial services officers can provide the same services to juveniles as they do for adult offenders. An example would be drug treatment.

And a section that applies an inflationary index to the threshold amount requiring approval by the chief judge of reimbursements for the cost of hiring expert witnesses and conducting investigations for indigent defendants. The dollar thresholds are statutorily fixed and erode over time. This means chief judges must devote greater time approving what are otherwise not genuine "high-dollar" requests.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3632 is necessary to improve the functioning of the U.S. courts, which will ultimately benefit the American people. This is a noncontroversial bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee has noted, Mr. SMITH from Texas, H.R. 3632 contains a number of administrative improvements to title 28 of the United States Code which will improve the operations and efficiency of the Federal judiciary. The previous speakers have highlighted many of the provisions set forth in H.R. 3632, but I would like to note two specific items:

First, section 4 of the legislation adjusts the disability retirement cov-

erage and COLA adjustments of territorial judges, thereby reducing existing inequities between them and other term judges, such as magistrate and bankruptcy judges. The CBO estimates that this will not result in an increase in direct spending.

Second, section 5 of the bill extends to senior executives in the Federal courts, the Federal Judiciary Center and Sentencing Commission the same ability to carry over up to 90 days of annual leave just as comparable officials within the executive branch and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts are treated.

Mr. Speaker, such changes are obscure but necessary to increase efficiency in our Federal courts, and I urge all Members to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that this is a noncontroversial, bipartisan bill.

As a Tennessean who represents the district, which over, maybe, give or take, 200 years ago was represented by Davy Crockett, who went to Texas and made sure that these two fine gentlemen weren't part of a territory or part of a foreign nation, I am proud to work with them to see that this legislation comes to the floor.

Ms. BORDALLO. I rise today in support of the passage of H.R. 3632, The Federal Judiciary Administrative Improvements Act of 2009. The passage of this bill in the House marks an important step towards addressing administrative disparities between federal judges serving under the authority of Article IV of the Constitution and Article III federal judges. Specifically, section 4 of H.R. 3632 addresses disparities in disability retirement and cost of living adjustments of annuities for territorial judges. While this bill takes a positive step in addressing these disparities, there is still work to be done on this issue. The House has previously passed this important legislation and I hope the Senate will take up this bill to improve the administration of our nation's federal court system.

I support legislation that addresses these disparities and have introduced legislation that calls for more equal treatment of territorial federal judges. H.R. 910 addresses one of the disparities in treatment of federal judges regarding the specific case of Judge John S. Unpingco, who served as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court of Guam but due to the ten year term limit of Article IV judges, did not fulfill the service requirement to receive a full annuity. Article III judges serve for life.

I commend Congressman HANK JOHNSON, as well as Chairman CONYERS and Ranking Member SMITH for their work and leadership on improving our nation's federal judiciary and I look forward to working with them in the future to further address the issue of disparities of territorial federal judges.

Mr. COHEN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3632.

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.

□ 1300

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:

S. 1694, by the yeas and nays;
H. Res. 838, by the yeas and nays;
H. Res. 784, by the yeas and nays;
H. Res. 824, de novo.

Other postponed questions will be taken later in the week.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

ALLOWING FUNDING FOR THE INTEROPERABLE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS GRANT PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1694, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1694.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 0, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 819]

YEAS—420

Abercrombie	Boren	Chaffetz
Ackerman	Boswell	Chandler
Adler (NJ)	Boucher	Childers
Akin	Boustany	Chu
Alexander	Boyd	Clarke
Altmire	Brady (PA)	Clay
Andrews	Brady (TX)	Cleaver
Arcuri	Braley (IA)	Clyburn
Austria	Bright	Coble
Baca	Brown (SC)	Coffman (CO)
Bachmann	Brown, Corrine	Cohen
Baldwin	Brown-Waite,	Cole
Barrow	Ginny	Conaway
Bartlett	Buchanan	Connolly (VA)
Barton (TX)	Burgess	Conyers
Bean	Burton (IN)	Cooper
Becerra	Butterfield	Costa
Berkley	Buyer	Costello
Berman	Calvert	Courtney
Berry	Camp	Crenshaw
Biggert	Campbell	Crowley
Bilbray	Cantor	Cuellar
Bilirakis	Cao	Culberson
Bishop (GA)	Capito	Cummings
Bishop (NY)	Capps	Dahlkemper
Bishop (UT)	Capuano	Davis (AL)
Blackburn	Cardoza	Davis (CA)
Blumenauer	Carnahan	Davis (IL)
Blunt	Carney	Davis (KY)
Bocchieri	Carson (IN)	Davis (TN)
Boehner	Carter	Deal (GA)
Bonner	Cassidy	DeFazio
Bono Mack	Castle	DeGette
Boozman	Castor (FL)	Delahunt