

industry regulators, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1480

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 “SAFE Act Confidentiality and Privilege Enhancement Act”.

SEC. 2. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION SHARED BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATORS.

Section 1512(a) of the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5111(a)) is amended by inserting “or financial services” before “industry”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous materials on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

The SAFE Act is a simple, bipartisan bill that encourages information-sharing between Federal and State regulators.

Ensuring the confidentiality of information provided to the National Mortgage Licensing System encourages its uses, which better protects consumers from bad actors who switch States for licensing purposes to evade scrutiny.

This legislation provides assurance for financial institutions that privileged information shared between Federal banking regulators and State regulatory agencies will be protected and remain confidential.

This will encourage a greater amount of sharing between institutions and their regulators, and will allow our Nation’s financial regulators to do their jobs to ensure that our financial institutions are operating lawfully, while, at the same time, able to offer consumer credit products that are critical to Americans to finance their everyday purchases and start small businesses.

The NMLS is used by regulators in all 50 States, and it is supported by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors.

This bill passed the House on suspension last Congress, and it passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

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

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, on most social issues, I consider myself a liberal. On most fiscal matters, I consider myself a conservative in the true sense

of the word, not the new sense of the word, meaning that you should pay for those things that you want.

When it comes to privacy matters, I consider myself a proud Libertarian. There is absolutely no reason for anyone who doesn’t need information that I don’t want them to have to get, period. It is my information, my information to share only with those with whom I wish to share it.

This bill takes one step further towards keeping my information private and confidential between me and those people I seek to share it with. It is a great bill. I look forward to voting for it.

This information is necessary to be shared to simply keep our financial services system going, but there is no reason whatsoever to allow it to be nonconfidential and to be spread around and be available to anybody who might want to look at it.

I support the passage of this bill. I congratulate Mr. DOLD for putting this forward for us to vote on, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD), the primary author of this bill, who has worked tirelessly in this area.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank the chairman for his leadership. I want to thank my good friend from Massachusetts, and I also want to comment on the fact that we are delighted that you are a Libertarian on some of these things.

As we look, Mr. Speaker, at H.R. 1480, the SAFE Act Confidentiality and Privilege Enhancement Act, it preserves the ability of the State and Federal financial regulators to share information regarding consumer financial services businesses that are licensed at the State level in the National Mortgage Licensing System without losing the privilege and confidentiality protections provided by State and Federal law.

This is a bipartisan bill that promotes smart and efficient regulation among State regulators. It ensures that State regulators can talk to their colleagues across State lines regarding multistate financial service entities without losing traditional privilege and constitutionality protections.

These amendments are needed due to the unintended gap in the existing National Mortgage Licensing System statute. As State regulators have expanded their use of the NMLS in order to enhance consumer protections, to combat fraud, increase uniformity, and reduce regulatory burdens in licensing processes, privacy protections have not kept up.

This is a commonsense bill that provides regulators with the certainty that they can continue to share information and collaborate with their colleagues across State lines.

Protecting the integrity of the National Mortgage Licensing System is

important because it better protects consumers from bad actors who switch States for licensing purposes to evade scrutiny.

This is ensuring, Mr. Speaker, smart regulations.

Again, I talk to people all around my district. The fact is that we are not against regulations. We just want our regulations to be smart and tailored, and this is one of those things that, again, working across the aisle and trying to find common ground, this is one that I believe that we can agree on.

H.R. 1480 does not create any new privilege or confidentiality rights. It merely ensures that the existing privilege and confidentiality protections are retained when information is shared through the National Mortgage Licensing System so that regulators can share information and communicate.

H.R. 1480 has received support from the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, the Credit Union National Association, and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, in my home State.

The SAFE Act Confidentiality and Privilege Enhancement Act passed out of this committee, out of the Financial Services Committee, 58-0. I certainly urge my colleagues to support this bill, and look forward to its passage.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, this truly is a bipartisan bill. It is a commonsense bill. I think the whole group of bills that we have seen this afternoon will go a long way to helping keep commonsense regulations; at the same time, making sure the consumers are protected. So I urge my colleagues to support passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1480.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o’clock 52 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOLD) at 6 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.