

□ 1515

This is a very good bill for reviving it. Look what it does. It keeps up with rapidly changing technology, and what is particularly gratifying about the bill is it says you don't have to come back to the floor every time when technology changes, you can reimburse as technology changes.

This will encourage Federal employees to look for the fastest, cheapest way to get around the District of Columbia and the region. Remember, these employees are all over the United States, but they are particularly to be found in crowded regions like the national capital area region. And I note that in this region Metro is being fixed. It goes to show that we need all the diversity and means of travel we can find, and I applaud this bill.

Mr. Speaker, having no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5625, the Modernizing Government Travel Act.

This bill is an important step forward in bringing government employees and federal regulations into the 21st century. Currently, each agency has different policies on what transportation options are available to federal employees for reimbursement. Thus, depending on the agency, some federal employees are unable to be reimbursed for official travel if they use ride-sharing or non-traditional forms of transportation, such as bikeshare. Yet many of these platforms provide cost-effective ways for our government employees to travel quickly and efficiently.

H.R. 5625 would address this problem by requiring the General Services Administration (GSA) to implement regulations to allow all federal employees to be reimbursed for these modes of travel. I was privileged to help in the drafting of H.R. 5625, and I want to thank the sponsor, Congressman SETH MOULTON, for introducing the bill and working diligently to help move it to the Floor.

Last year, Congressman DARRELL ISSA and I co-founded the bipartisan Congressional Sharing Economy Caucus. We started this caucus in order to bring government attention to the benefits of the sharing economy and to find ways for the federal government to support it, a growing sector of our economy. The bill in front of us helps to encourage the use of sharing economy technology, therefore saving taxpayers money, and fits perfectly within the goals of the Sharing Economy Caucus.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5625 today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5625, 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. HUELSKAMP. 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.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1550), to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish entities tasked with improving program and project management in certain Federal agencies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1550

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 "Program Management Improvement Accountability Act".

SEC. 2. PROJECT MANAGEMENT.

(a) DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MANAGEMENT.—

(1) ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS.—Section 503 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) PROGRAM AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—Subject to the direction and approval of the Director, the Deputy Director for Management or a designee shall—

“(A) adopt governmentwide standards, policies, and guidelines for program and project management for executive agencies;

“(B) oversee implementation of program and project management for the standards, policies, and guidelines established under subparagraph (A);

“(C) chair the Program Management Policy Council established under section 1126(b);

“(D) establish standards and policies for executive agencies, consistent with widely accepted standards for program and project management planning and delivery;

“(E) engage with the private sector to identify best practices in program and project management that would improve Federal program and project management;

“(F) conduct portfolio reviews to address programs identified as high risk by the Government Accountability Office;

“(G) not less than annually, conduct portfolio reviews of agency programs in coordination with Project Management Improvement Officers designated under section 1126(a)(1) to assess the quality and effectiveness of program management; and

“(H) establish a 5-year strategic plan for program and project management.

“(2) APPLICATION TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the Department of Defense to the extent that the provisions of that paragraph are substantially similar to or duplicative of—

“(A) the provisions of chapter 87 of title 10; or

“(B) policy, guidance, or instruction of the Department related to program management.”

(2) DEADLINE FOR STANDARDS, POLICIES, AND GUIDELINES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue the standards, policies, and guidelines required under section 503(c) of title 31, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1).

(3) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the standards, poli-

cies, and guidelines are issued under paragraph (2), the Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Program Management Policy Council established under section 1126(b) of title 31, United States Code, as added by subsection (b)(1), and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall issue any regulations as are necessary to implement the requirements of section 503(c) of title 31, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1).

(b) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT OFFICERS AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT POLICY COUNCIL.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 1126. Program management improvement officers and program management policy council

“(a) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT OFFICERS.—

“(1) DESIGNATION.—The head of each agency described in section 901(b) shall designate a senior executive of the agency as the Program Management Improvement Officer of the agency.

“(2) FUNCTIONS.—The Program Management Improvement Officer of an agency designated under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) implement program management policies established by the agency under section 503(c); and

“(B) develop a strategy for enhancing the role of program managers within the agency that includes the following:

“(i) Enhanced training and educational opportunities for program managers that shall include—

“(I) training in the relevant competencies encompassed with program and project manager within the private sector for program managers; and

“(II) training that emphasizes cost containment for large projects and programs.

“(ii) Mentoring of current and future program managers by experienced senior executives and program managers within the agency.

“(iii) Improved career paths and career opportunities for program managers.

“(iv) A plan to encourage the recruitment and retention of highly qualified individuals to serve as program managers.

“(v) Improved means of collecting and disseminating best practices and lessons learned to enhance program management across the agency.

“(vi) Common templates and tools to support improved data gathering and analysis for program management and oversight purposes.

“(3) APPLICATION TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—This subsection shall not apply to the Department of Defense to the extent that the provisions of this subsection are substantially similar to or duplicative of the provisions of chapter 87 of title 10. For purposes of paragraph (1), the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (or a designee of the Under Secretary) shall be considered the Program Management Improvement Officer.

“(b) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT POLICY COUNCIL.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Office of Management and Budget a council to be known as the ‘Program Management Policy Council’ (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Council’).

“(2) PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS.—The Council shall act as the principal interagency forum for improving agency practices related to program and project management. The Council shall—

“(A) advise and assist the Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget;

“(B) review programs identified as high risk by the General Accountability Office and make recommendations for actions to be taken by the Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget or a designee;

“(C) discuss topics of importance to the workforce, including—

“(i) career development and workforce development needs;

“(ii) policy to support continuous improvement in program and project management; and

“(iii) major challenges across agencies in managing programs;

“(D) advise on the development and applicability of standards governmentwide for program management transparency; and

“(E) review the information published on the website of the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to section 1122.

“(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(A) COMPOSITION.—The Council shall be composed of the following members:

“(i) Five members from the Office of Management and Budget as follows:

“(I) The Deputy Director for Management.

“(II) The Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government.

“(III) The Administrator of Federal Procurement Policy.

“(IV) The Controller of the Office of Federal Financial Management.

“(V) The Director of the Office of Performance and Personnel Management.

“(ii) The Program Management Improvement Officer from each agency described in section 901(b).

“(iii) Any other full-time or permanent part-time officer or employee of the Federal Government or member of the Armed Forces designated by the Chairperson.

“(B) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget shall be the Chairperson of the Council. A Vice Chairperson shall be elected by the members and shall serve a term of not more than 1 year.

“(ii) DUTIES.—The Chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Council, determine the agenda of the Council, direct the work of the Council, and establish and direct subgroups of the Council as appropriate.

“(4) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet not less than twice per fiscal year and may meet at the call of the Chairperson or a majority of the members of the Council.

“(5) SUPPORT.—The head of each agency with a Project Management Improvement Officer serving on the Council shall provide administrative support to the Council, as appropriate, at the request of the Chairperson.”

(2) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with each Program Management Improvement Officer designated under section 1126(a)(1) of title 31, United States Code, shall submit to Congress a report containing the strategy developed under section 1126(a)(2)(B) of such title, as added by paragraph (1).

(c) PROGRAM AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL STANDARDS.—

(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “agency” means each agency described in section 901(b) of title 31, United States Code, other than the Department of Defense.

(2) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the standards, policies, and guidelines are issued under section 503(c) of title 31, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), the Di-

rector of the Office of Personnel Management, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall issue regulations that—

(A) identify key skills and competencies needed for a program and project manager in an agency;

(B) establish a new job series, or update and improve an existing job series, for program and project management within an agency; and

(C) establish a new career path for program and project managers within an agency.

(d) GAO REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF POLICIES ON PROGRAM AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Government Accountability Office shall issue, in conjunction with the High Risk list of the Government Accountability Office, a report examining the effectiveness of the following on improving Federal program and project management:

(1) The standards, policies, and guidelines for program and project management issued under section 503(c) of title 31, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1).

(2) The 5-year strategic plan established under section 503(c)(1)(H) of title 31, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1).

(3) Program Management Improvement Officers designated under section 1126(a)(1) of title 31, United States Code, as added by subsection (b)(1).

(4) The Program Management Policy Council established under section 1126(b)(1) of title 31, United States Code, as added by subsection (b)(1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1550, the Program Management Improvement Accountability Act, introduced by Senator JONI ERNST of Iowa. Program and project management are the guide rails that are necessary to ensure the Federal Government actually works.

Effective program and project managers are both the first line of defense against waste and fraud throughout the Federal Government and the best positioned employees to increase government efficiency.

With Federal spending out of control, we need the best program and project managers we can get to combat waste, fraud, and inefficiency. According to CBO, the Federal Government will spend more than \$4 trillion in fiscal year 2017, but better management alone could prove a significant effect on our long-term spending.

A 2013 Accenture study found that a 1 percent increase in efficiency could save the Federal Government nearly \$1 trillion by 2025.

S. 1550 gives our Federal professionals the support and leadership they need to build a strong foundation of efficiency for Federal programs and projects. The bill addresses challenges these professionals face to ensure that management professionals in our Federal workforce have the guidance, support, and professional standards necessary to improve efficiency.

According to a report by the National Academy of Public Administration, there are five significant challenges to improving program management capabilities in the Federal Government: laws do not holistically address challenges of program management; program management is not recognized as an important discipline for improving performance and results; agency executives and stakeholders do not understand their roles and responsibilities; training and development of program managers lack consistency across the Federal Government; and program managers lack a professional community to provide support and voice concerns about program management development.

S. 1550 addresses these challenges by: requiring OMB's Deputy Director of Management to adopt and oversee government-wide standards that are consistent with private sector best practices; requiring agencies to designate a senior executive to serve as a program management improvement officer, an individual who will then be responsible for implementing standards and policies set by OMB at their agency; and establishing a Program Management Policy Council to discuss topics of importance to program and project managers and make recommendations to resolve inefficiencies in programs identified as high risk by the Government Accountability Office.

Providing guidance and leadership to our Federal employees responsible for trillions of dollars in spending will go a long way toward meeting a simple goal like increasing efficiency by just 1 percent. I urge my colleagues to support this cost-saving, bipartisan bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I support this bipartisan legislation to improve program management practices in Federal agencies, and I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), my good friend, and of course the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) for their bipartisan hard work on this bill.

The bill would require the development of standard policies and guidelines across the Federal Government for program management. It would also establish an interagency Program Management Policy Council to develop best practices and focus on improving the management of Federal programs.

The bill would, in addition, require the Office of Personnel Management to establish a new career path for program and project management and to identify key skills and competencies for such jobs. The Federal Government is often called upon to manage large, complex new programs and initiatives and needs a cadre of managers capable of guiding this work.

S. 1550, as amended, is a good, bipartisan measure that would improve the management of the Federal Government, and I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), my good friend and a sponsor of this bill.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), my good friends, for their leadership in managing today.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in strong support of this bill, which will make fundamental changes to project and program management practices and standards for the Federal Government.

The bill's cosponsor, Representative TODD YOUNG, and I currently serve as co-chairs of the Government Efficiency Caucus, which to some may seem like an oxymoron. In our capacity as co-chairs, Representative YOUNG and I worked together on a bipartisan basis to develop the Program Management Improvement and Accountability Act.

After taking input from many stakeholders, including from agency management and private sector partners, regarding the root causes of poor project performance, we identified serious deficiencies in program and project management competencies across the entire Federal Government.

As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, it is deeply troubling to me that so many Federal projects and programs find themselves substantially over budget or significantly behind schedule. These are all symptoms of a lack of institutional focus and attention to the mechanics of project management.

This bill strengthens project management policy throughout the Federal Government by requiring consistent project standards and guidelines for program management, demanding accountability at OMB and in Federal agencies to capture and implement lessons learned, and requiring a clear identification of skills and competencies necessary for effective program management professionals.

I have the honor of representing more than 13,000 project managers, Federal project managers, and the lack of requirements for the position is not acceptable. The job description for an important position where billions of dollars are being spent should be clear-

ly defined, and this legislation instructs OPM, the Office of Personnel Management, to develop a job classification and career path for these professionals.

I am proud to have worked with Congressman YOUNG and the Government Efficiency Caucus on a bipartisan basis. We have the support of non-partisan good government groups, including the Project Management Institute and the National Academy of Public Administration behind this bill.

As a result, the PMIAA passed through our committee, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, without objection, and passed the Senate unanimously. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation that I think will lead to significant efficiencies in the Federal Government and ultimately benefit the American taxpayer.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill. I thank my colleague for his work on this bill, my good friend from Virginia.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1550, 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. HUELSKAMP. 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.

GAO MANDATES REVISION ACT OF 2016

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5687) to eliminate or modify certain mandates of the Government Accountability Office.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5687

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 "GAO Mandates Revision Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) SINGLE AUDIT ACT MONITORING RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking section 7506; and
(B) by redesignating section 7507 as section 7506.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the items relating to sections 7506 and 7507 and inserting the following:

"7506. Effective date."

(b) REVIEW OF MEDIGAP PREMIUM LEVELS.—Section 111(c) of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (Appendix F; 114 Stat. 2763A-473), as enacted into law by section 1(a)(6) of Public Law 106-554, is repealed.

(c) REPORT ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 1105 of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 (42 U.S.C. 5189a note) is amended by striking subsection (d).

(d) BIENNIAL SURVEY REGARDING TRANSPORTATION INTELLIGENCE REPORTS.—Section 114(u) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking "subsection (t)" and inserting "subsection (s)(4)(E)";

(2) by striking paragraph (7); and

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively.

SEC. 3. REPORTS MODIFIED.

(a) OVERSIGHT AND AUDITS UNDER THE EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008.—Section 116(a)(3) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5226(a)(3)) is amended by striking ", regularly and no less frequently than once every 60 days," and inserting "annually".

(b) REPORTS ON CONFLICT MINERALS.—Section 1502(d) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 78m note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "until the termination of the disclosure requirements under section 13(p) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934" and inserting "through 2020, in 2022, and in 2024"; and

(2) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "through 2020, in 2022, and in 2024" after "annually thereafter".

(c) UPDATE ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY SECRETARY OF HHS TO IMPLEMENT GAO RECOMMENDATION.—Section 632(d) of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240; 126 Stat. 2354) is amended in the first sentence by striking "December 31, 2015" and inserting "December 31, 2023".

(d) REVIEW PANEL.—Section 399V-4(d)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g-15) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking ", or an individual within the Government Accountability Office designated by the Comptroller General, shall" and inserting "shall designate a member of the review panel to"; and
(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking "Comptroller General" and inserting "Secretary".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 5687, the GAO Mandates Revision