

“(3) The Northern Division comprises the counties of Clay, Craighead, Cross, Fulton, Greene, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, Randolph, Sharp, and Woodruff. Court for the Northern Division shall be held at Jonesboro.”.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendment made by this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1123, which would amend current law to reduce the number of operating divisions in the Eastern District of Arkansas from five to three.

This legislation, introduced by Congressman RICK CRAWFORD from Arkansas, has the support of every member of the Arkansas congressional delegation.

The bill was prompted by the closure in 2017 of the only Federal courthouses in two of the divisions. The three new divisions created by H.R. 1123 would align with the three remaining courthouses in that district. The new divisional lines are based on caseload history and travel times to the remaining courthouses.

As chairman of the Judiciary Committee's subcommittee with jurisdiction over the courts, it is a priority of mine to ensure that people across this Nation have ready access to the Federal judiciary.

In the context of a bill such as that under consideration here today, I mean that in a very literal sense, ensuring that jurisdictional lines are appropriately drawn so that those residing in their bounds are not unduly burdened by travel time to a courthouse. But this must be balanced against closing courthouses where resources are not being used efficiently.

I am satisfied that such a balance has been achieved here, given the support this bill has gotten from the Judicial Conference, the Judicial Council of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, and the chief judge of the Eastern District of Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this legislation and urge my colleagues to support it as well, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1123, the Divisional Realignment for the Eastern District of Arkansas Act of 2019, introduced by my Republican colleague from Arkansas, Representative RICK CRAWFORD.

H.R. 1123 reduces the existing divisions in the Eastern District of Arkansas from five to three, limiting the burden caused by two courthouse closures. It allows the Eastern District of Arkansas to better balance its caseload, account for geographical differences, and align with the judicial work generated by correctional facilities.

H.R. 1123 is supported by the Judicial Conference, the Judicial Council of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, the chief judge of the Eastern District of Arkansas, and all the members of the Arkansas delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD), my good friend and the sponsor of this measure.

□ 1700

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you it won't take 2 minutes to say what I have to say.

I certainly want to thank each side of the aisle for supporting H.R. 1123, the Divisional Realignment for Eastern District of Arkansas Act of 2019.

I want to thank Chairman NADLER and Ranking Member COLLINS for marking up this important legislation.

Following the Federal Judiciary's efforts to reduce space, the Federal courthouses in Batesville and Pine Bluff, Arkansas, were closed. However, the Eastern District of Arkansas has been required to maintain the organizational divisions mandated by the statute.

This bill simply corrects that disparity and reduces divisions in the Eastern District from five to three, aligning divisions with remaining courthouses.

The new districts have been carefully designed to maximize access to justice, considering highway access, geography, and case load history. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time so that I can close.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

I would just like to say that, again, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 1123, the Divisional Realignment for the Eastern District of Arkansas Act of 2019.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1123 is a straightforward bill that better aligns the divisions of the Eastern District of Arkansas with the

current operations of that district, and so I urge my colleagues to support 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. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1123.

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.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4617, STOPPING HARMFUL INTERFERENCE IN ELECTIONS FOR A LASTING DEMOCRACY ACT

Mr. HASTINGS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-253) on the resolution (H. Res. 650) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4617) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the obligation to report acts of foreign election influence and require implementation of compliance and reporting systems by Federal campaigns to detect and report such acts, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 1903(b), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy:

Mr. CUNNINGHAM, South Carolina.

GEORGIA SUPPORT ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 598) to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Georgia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 598

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Georgia Support Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows: