

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill.

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, to my colleague Mr. HUNTER and those who have assisted in the drafting of the bill, particularly our staff, I want to thank you for making all of this possible.

This bill, which does extend the authorization for the Coast Guard, also provides very, very important elements, most of which you have heard here today. I would urge its passing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Ranking Member GARAMENDI and all the staff who worked so hard on this, and, again, the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Chairman SHUSTER for their help, leadership, and support on this.

Explanation of Sec. 310. Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study. This section would require the Coast Guard to complete its ongoing Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study (PARS) by April 2016. This provision was included in H.R. 1987 because the House was concerned about the impacts on navigation safety from the construction of certain offshore renewable energy projects. The Study will assist the federal government, as well as stakeholders, to understand potential impacts and whether the siting of these projects could pose hazards to safe navigation, especially projects built in or near vessel traffic routes.

The Coast Guard's Atlantic Coast PARS working group has developed standards and a methodology for assessing potential impacts on navigation safety including high, medium and low or minimal impacts. The purpose of the study and the reason for developing standards and methodologies is to assist in future determinations of waterway suitability for proposed development projects.

When the Atlantic Coast PARS began, it excluded the waters in and around Nantucket Sound. These waters are heavily traveled by commercial vessels, fishing and recreational vessels as well as passenger and freight ferries. Because of increased vessel traffic and the potential impacts to navigation from any future development, this section would direct the Coast Guard to complete a separate port access route study of Nantucket Sound using the new standards and methodologies developed by the Coast Guard's working group. The Atlantic Coast PARS will help the Coast Guard determine whether they should revise current regulations to improve navigation safety by establishing safety fairways, traffic separation zones or new vessel routing. The Nantucket Sound PARS is intended to guide decision-makers to ensure that any future development in Nantucket Sound will have minimal impact and low risk to navigational safety. This section would require the completion of the Nantucket Sound PARS by December

I urge the passage of H.R. 4188.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4188.

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.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3094

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 3094, and I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 3094.

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CBRNE DEFENSE ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3875) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish within the Department of Homeland Security a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3875

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Department of Homeland Security CBRNE Defense Act of 2015”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; Table of contents.
- Sec. 2. CBRNE Office.
- Sec. 3. Chemical Division.
- Sec. 4. Biological Division.
- Sec. 5. Nuclear Division.
- Sec. 6. Explosives Division.
- Sec. 7. Savings provisions.
- Sec. 8. Clerical amendments.

SEC. 2. CBRNE OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by adding at the end the following new title:

“TITLE XXII—CBRNE OFFICE

“Subtitle A—Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office

“SEC. 2201. CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR, AND EXPLOSIVES OFFICE.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office (referred to in this title as the ‘CBRNE Office’). The CBRNE Office shall be comprised of the Chemical Division, the Biological Division, the Nuclear Division, and the Explosives Division. The CBRNE Office may include a Health Division.

“(b) MISSION OF OFFICE.—The mission of the CBRNE Office is to coordinate, strengthen, and provide chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) capabilities in support of homeland security.

“(c) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Office shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary for the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nu-

clear, and Explosives Office (referred to in this title as the ‘Assistant Secretary’), who shall be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Assistant Secretary shall—

“(1) develop, coordinate, and maintain overall CBRNE strategy and policy for the Department;

“(2) develop, coordinate, and maintain for the Department periodic CBRNE risk assessments;

“(3) serve as the primary Department representative for coordinating CBRNE activities with other Federal departments and agencies;

“(4) provide oversight for the Department's preparedness for CBRNE threats;

“(5) provide support for operations during CBRNE threats or incidents; and

“(6) carry out such other responsibilities as the Secretary determines appropriate, consistent with this title.

“(e) OTHER OFFICERS.—The Director of the Chemical Division, the Director of the Biological Division, the Director of the Nuclear Division, and the Director of the Explosives Division shall report directly to the Assistant Secretary.

“SEC. 2202. COMPOSITION OF THE CBRNE OFFICE.

“The Secretary shall transfer to the CBRNE Office, the functions, personnel, budget authority, and assets of the following:

“(1) The Office of Health Affairs as in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this title, including the Chief Medical Officer authorized under section 516, and the National Biosurveillance Integration Center authorized under section 316.

“(2) The Domestic Nuclear Detection Office authorized under title XIX, as in existence on the date before the date of the enactment of this title (and redesignated as the Nuclear Division).

“(3) CBRNE threat awareness and risk assessment activities of the Science and Technology Directorate.

“(4) The CBRNE functions of the Office of Policy and the Office of Operations Coordination.

“(5) The Office for Bombing Prevention of the National Protection and Programs Directorate, as in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this title.

“SEC. 2203. HIRING AUTHORITY.

“In hiring personnel for the CBRNE Office, the Secretary shall have the hiring and management authorities provided in section 1101 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (5 U.S.C. 3104 note; Public Law 105-261), except that the term of appointments for employees under subsection (c)(1) of such section may not exceed five years before granting any extension under subsection (c)(2) of such section.

“SEC. 2204. GRANTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, AND OTHER TRANSACTIONS AND CONTRACTS.

“The Assistant Secretary, in carrying out the responsibilities under this title, may distribute funds through grants, cooperative agreements, and other transactions and contracts.

“SEC. 2205. TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENTS.

“(a) TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall, in coordination with relevant Department components and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, develop, coordinate, and update periodically terrorism risk assessments of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.