

□ 1403

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 611 and "yea" on rollcall No. 612.

GOLD STAR FAMILY SUPPORT AND INSTALLATION ACCESS ACT OF 2017

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3897) to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of the Gold Star Installation Access Card to the surviving spouse, dependent children, and other next of kin of a member of the Armed Forces who dies while serving on certain active or reserve duty, to ensure that a remarried surviving spouse with dependent children of the deceased member remains eligible for installation benefits to which the surviving spouse was previously eligible, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOOLENAAR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3897

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 "Gold Star Family Support and Installation Access Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Since World War I, the gold star symbol has been used by American families to honor members of the Armed Forces who have given their lives in service to the Nation.

(2) Surviving families of deceased members of the Armed Forces confront many challenges, often made worse by policies that fail to compassionately honor the memory of their loved one's service and sacrifice to the Nation.

(3) There is an obligation to ensure that the Gold Star family connections to the military community remain an eternal bond providing strength and comfort to surviving family members and to those still serving.

(4) Individual military services have recognized the need to provide installation access to Gold Star families to attend memorial events, visit gravesites, and access other benefits for which family members are eligible and entitled.

(5) Surviving families of deceased members of the Armed Forces relocate to other parts of the country, often far away from the service installation where their loved one last served.

(6) Current Department of Defense policy rescinds on-base benefits to surviving spouses of deceased service members who remarry, even when dependent children under the guardianship of the surviving spouse re-

main eligible for benefits, effectively rendering these benefits inaccessible by the children of the deceased member.

SEC. 3. ISSUANCE OF GOLD STAR INSTALLATION ACCESS CARDS.

(a) ISSUANCE AND CONDITIONS ON USE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 57 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1126 the following new section:

"§ 1126a. Gold Star Installation Access Card: issuance and protections

"(a) ISSUANCE TO GOLD STAR SURVIVING SPOUSE AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF DECEASED MEMBER REQUIRED.—The Secretary concerned shall provide for the issuance of a standardized Gold Star Installation Access Card to the widow and dependent children of a deceased member of the armed forces described in section 1126(a) of this title to facilitate their ability to gain unescorted access to military installations for the purpose of attending memorial events, visiting gravesites, and obtaining the on-installation services and benefits to which they are entitled or eligible.

"(b) ISSUANCE TO OTHER NEXT OF KIN AUTHORIZED.—At the discretion of the Secretary concerned, the Secretary concerned may provide the Gold Star Installation Access Card to the parents and other next of kin of a deceased member of the armed forces described in section 1126(a) of this title.

"(c) SERVICE-WIDE ACCEPTANCE OF ACCESS CARD.—The Secretaries concerned shall work together to ensure that a Gold Star Installation Access Card issued by one armed force is accepted for access to military installations under the jurisdiction of another armed force.

"(d) PROTECTION OF INSTALLATION SECURITY.—In developing, issuing, and accepting the Gold Star Installation Access Card, the Secretary concerned may take such measures as the Secretary concerned considers necessary—

"(1) to prevent fraud in the procurement or use of the Gold Star Installation Access Card;

"(2) to limit installation access to those areas of the installation that provide the services and benefits for which the recipient of the Gold Star Installation Access Card is entitled or eligible; and

"(3) to ensure that the availability and use of the Gold Star Installation Access Card does not adversely affect military installation security.

"(e) TERMINATION.—The Gold Star Installation Access Card for the widow and dependent children of a deceased member of the armed forces shall remain valid for the life of the widow or child, regardless of subsequent marital status of the widow, subject to periodic renewal as determined by the Secretary concerned to ensure military installation security."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 57 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1126 the following new item:

"1126a. Gold Star Installation Access Card: issuance and protections."

(b) APPLICABILITY OF CURRENT DEFINITIONS.—Section 1126(d) of title 10, United States Code is amended by striking the matter preceding paragraph (1) and inserting the following: "In this section and section 1126a of this title:"

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE BENEFITS FOR REMARRIED SPOUSES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

(a) BENEFITS.—Section 1062 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "The Secretary of Defense" and inserting the following:

"(a) CERTAIN UNREMARKED FORMER SPOUSES.—The Secretary of Defense"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) CERTAIN REMARRIED SURVIVING SPOUSES.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to provide that a surviving spouse of a deceased member of the armed forces, regardless of the marital status of the surviving spouse, who has guardianship of dependent children of the deceased member is entitled to use commissary stores and MWR retail facilities to the same extent and on the same basis as the unmarried surviving spouse of a member of the uniformed services."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1062 of title 10, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) by striking "commissary and exchange privileges" and inserting "use commissary stores and MWR retail facilities"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) MWR RETAIL FACILITIES.—The term 'MWR retail facilities' has the meaning given that term in section 1063(e) of this title."

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of section 1062 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 1062. Certain former spouses and surviving spouses".

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 54 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1062 and inserting the following new item:

"1062. Certain former spouses and surviving spouses."

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

RISK-BASED CREDIT EXAMINATION ACT

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3911) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 with respect to risk-based examinations of Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3911

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 "Risk-Based Credit Examination Act".

SEC. 2. RISK-BASED EXAMINATIONS OF NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STATISTICAL RATING ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 15E(p)(3)(B) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o-7(p)(3)(B)) is