

TO EXTEND THE AUTHORITY OF THE SUPREME COURT  
POLICE TO PROTECT COURT OFFICIALS AWAY FROM  
THE SUPREME COURT GROUNDS

NOVEMBER 12, 2013.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the  
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GOODLATTE, from the Committee on the Judiciary,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2922]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill  
(H.R. 2922) to extend the authority of the Supreme Court Police to  
protect court officials away from the Supreme Court grounds, hav-  
ing considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amend-  
ment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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**Purpose and Summary**

The purpose of H.R. 2922 is to extend until December 29, 2019  
the long-standing authority of the Supreme Court Police to provide

appropriate protection for the safety of Justices, Court employees and official guests of the Court.

### **Background and Need for the Legislation**

It is essential to the functioning of the Supreme Court that Justices, Court employees and official guests of the Court be provided with adequate and appropriate protective services. Subject to regulations prescribed by the Marshal of the Supreme Court and approved by the Chief Justice of the United States, the Marshal of the Supreme Court and Supreme Court Police are charged with enforcing the law at the Supreme Court building and on its grounds as well as the duty to protect Justices, court officers and employees and official guests when they travel in any State.

Since 1982, Congress has provided explicit statutory authority<sup>1</sup> to the Supreme Court Police to provide security beyond the Court building for Justices, Court employees and official guests. Since 1986, Congress has extended this authority, which is currently due to expire December 29, 2013, continuously and repeatedly.

The current authority and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court Police is essential to the force's professional performance of its everyday duties. Supreme Court Police provide security to Justices by transporting and accompanying them to official functions in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, and on occasion, outside this area when they, Court officers or employees or official guests travel on official Court business.

In some circumstances, threats to personal safety may make it necessary and appropriate to ensure Justices are accompanied by a protective detail when traveling between their home and the Court. Additionally, police are authorized to provide protection to Court employees while they move between the Court and designated parking facilities.

The House, on a non-partisan basis, has previously supported making this authority permanent. Notwithstanding the House's willingness to enact this authority on a permanent basis, a temporary extension until December 29, 2019 is appropriate at this time in order to ensure continuity of operations and maximize the ability to achieve comity with the other body.

### **Hearings**

The Committee on the Judiciary held no hearings on H.R. 2922.

### **Committee Consideration**

On September 11, 2013, the Committee met in open session and ordered the bill, H.R. 2922, favorably reported without amendment, by a voice vote, a quorum being present.

### **Committee Votes**

In compliance with clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee advises that there were no recorded votes during the Committee's consideration of H.R. 2922.

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<sup>1</sup> 40 U.S.C. § 6121.

### **Committee Oversight Findings**

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee advises that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

### **New Budget Authority and Tax Expenditures**

Clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is inapplicable because this legislation does not provide new budgetary authority or increased tax expenditures.

### **Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate**

In compliance with clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee sets forth, with respect to the bill, H.R. 2922, the following estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974:

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
*Washington, DC, October 24, 2013.*

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE, CHAIRMAN,  
*Committee on the Judiciary,*  
*House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 2922, a bill to extend the authority of the Supreme Court Police to protect court officials away from the Supreme Court grounds.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Martin von Gnechten, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF,  
DIRECTOR.

Enclosure

cc: Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member

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### **H.R. 2922—A bill to extend the authority of the Supreme Court Police to protect court officials away from the Supreme Court grounds.**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary  
on September 11, 2013.

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H.R. 2922 would extend the authority of the U.S. Supreme Court Police to provide security beyond the Supreme Court buildings and grounds for justices, other court employees, and official guests through December 29, 2019. The current authority to provide such services expires on December 29, 2013. Based on information pro-

vided by the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2922 would not have a significant impact on the Federal budget. Enacting H.R. 2922 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

Under current law, the Supreme Court Police spend about \$15 million annually, and the U.S. Marshals Service would continue to provide protection for the Supreme Court justices, staff, and official guests off the Supreme Court grounds when the authorization for the Supreme Court Police expires. Consequently, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would have no significant impact on the Federal budget.

H.R. 2922 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Martin von Gnechten. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

### **Duplication of Federal Programs**

No provision of H.R. 2922 establishes or reauthorizes a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, a program that was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139, or a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

### **Disclosure of Directed Rule Makings**

The Committee estimates that H.R. 2922 specifically directs to be completed no specific rule makings within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 551.

### **Performance Goals and Objectives**

The Committee states that pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, H.R. 2922 is intended to provide for an appropriate level of security and safety for Supreme Court Justices, Court employees and official visitors to the Court until December 29, 2019.

### **Advisory on Earmarks**

In accordance with clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, H.R. 2922 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(e), 9(f), or 9(g) of Rule XXI.

### **Section-by-Section Analysis**

The following discussion describes the bill as reported by the Committee.

*Sec. 1. Extension of Authority of Supreme Court Police to Protect Court Officials Off Supreme Court Grounds.*

Extends the current authority in section 6121(b)(2) of title 40, United States Code, until December 29, 2019.

### **Changes in Existing Law Made by the Bill, as Reported**

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

## **TITLE 40, UNITED STATES CODE**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **SUBTITLE II—PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND WORKS**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **PART C—FEDERAL BUILDING COMPLEXES**

\* \* \* \* \*

### **CHAPTER 61—UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **SUBCHAPTER III—POLICING AUTHORITY**

#### **§ 6121. General**

(a) \* \* \*

(b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO SUBSECTION  
(a)(2).—

(1) \* \* \*

(2) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided  
under subsection (a)(2) expires on December 29, **[2013]** 2019.

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