Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H. R. 2647, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2647

To adopt a certain California flammability standard as a Federal flammability standard to protect against the risk of upholstered furniture flammability, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2019

Ms. Matsui (for herself, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Rush, and Mr. Cárdenas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To adopt a certain California flammability standard as a Federal flammability standard to protect against the risk of upholstered furniture flammability, and for other purposes.

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 “Safer Occupancy Furniture Flammability Act” or the “SOFFA Act”.

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SEC. 2. ADOPTION OF CALIFORNIA FLAMMABILITY STANDARD AS A FEDERAL STANDARD.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “bedding product” means—

(A) an item that is used for sleeping or sleep-related purposes; or

(B) any component or accessory with respect to an item described in subparagraph (A), without regard to whether the component or accessory, as applicable, is used—

(i) alone; or

(ii) along with, or contained within, that item;


(3) the terms “foundation” and “mattress” have the meanings given those terms in section
1633.2 of title 16, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(4) the term “upholstered furniture”—

(A) means an article of seating furniture that—

(i) is intended for indoor use;

(ii) is movable or stationary;

(iii) is constructed with an upholstered seat, back, or arm;

(iv) is—

(I) made or sold with a cushion or pillow, without regard to whether that cushion or pillow, as applicable, is attached or detached with respect to the article of furniture; or

(II) stuffed or filled, or able to be stuffed or filled, in whole or in part, with any material, including a substance or material that is hidden or concealed by fabric or another covering, including a cushion or pillow belonging to, or forming a part of, the article of furniture; and

(v) together with the structural units of the article of furniture, any filling mate-
rial, and the container and covering with respect to those structural units and that filling material, can be used as a support for the body of an individual, or the limbs and feet of an individual, when the individual sits in an upright or reclining position;

(B) includes an article of furniture that is intended for use by a child; and

(C) does not include—

(i) a mattress;

(ii) a foundation;

(iii) any bedding product; or

(iv) furniture that is used exclusively for the purpose of physical fitness and exercise.

(b) Adoption of Standard.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and except as provided in paragraph (2), the California standard shall be considered to be a flammability standard promulgated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission under section 4 of the Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1193).
(2) TESTING AND CERTIFICATION.—A fabric, related material, or product to which the California standard applies as a result of paragraph (1) shall not be subject to section 14(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2063(a)) with respect to that standard.

(3) CERTIFICATION LABEL.—Each manufacturer of a product that is subject to the California standard as a result of paragraph (1) shall include the statement “Complies with U.S. CPSC requirements for upholstered furniture flammability” on a permanent label located on the product, which shall be considered to be a certification that the product complies with that standard.

(c) PREEMPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 16 of the Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1203) and section 231 of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 2051 note), and except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2), no State or any political subdivision of a State may establish or continue in effect any provision of a flammability law, regulation, code, standard, or requirement that is designed to protect against the risk of occurrence of fire, or to slow or
prevent the spread of fire, with respect to upholstered furniture.

(2) PRESERVATION OF CERTAIN STATE LAW.—Nothing in this Act or the Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1191 et seq.) may be construed to preempt or otherwise affect—

(A) any State or local law, regulation, code, standard, or requirement that—

(i) concerns health risks associated with upholstered furniture; and

(ii) is not designed to protect against the risk of occurrence of fire, or to slow or prevent the spread of fire, with respect to upholstered furniture;

(B) sections 1374 through 1374.3 of title 4, California Code of Regulations (except for subsections (b) and (c) of section 1374 of that title), as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act; or

(C) the California standard.