

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 954

To authorize the Architect of the Capitol to establish a Capitol Visitor Center under the East Plaza of the United States Capitol, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21 (legislative day, JUNE 19), 1995

Mr. HATFIELD (for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To authorize the Architect of the Capitol to establish a Capitol Visitor Center under the East Plaza of the United States Capitol, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Capitol Visitor Center
5 Authorization Act of 1995”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Architect of the Capitol,
8 under the direction of the United States Capitol Preserva-
9 tion Commission, is authorized—

1 (1) to plan, construct, equip, administer, and
2 maintain a Capitol Visitor Center under the East
3 Plaza of the United States Capitol with associated
4 improvements to the Capitol to provide access there-
5 to; and

6 (2) to reconstruct the environs of the East
7 Plaza of the United States Capitol to enhance its
8 attractiveness, safety, and security.

9 (b) PURPOSE.—It shall be the purpose of the Capitol
10 Visitor Center to provide reception facilities, educational
11 exhibits, amenities, auditoriums, and other programs and
12 facilities for members of the public visiting the United
13 States Capitol.

14 **SEC. 3. ENGINEERING AND DESIGN.**

15 (a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—As soon as practicable
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Architect
17 of the Capitol shall complete engineering and architectural
18 designs and cost estimates for construction of the Capitol
19 Visitor Center and transmit a report on the results thereof
20 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
21 of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Rules
22 and Administration of the Senate, and the United States
23 Capitol Preservation Commission.

24 (b) CONTENTS.—The report to be transmitted under
25 subsection (a) shall include detailed plans, specifications,

1 and cost estimates for construction of the Capitol Visitor
2 Center.

3 (c) PLANS FOR EXHIBITS.—Plans and specifications
4 for the exhibits and equipping of the Capitol Visitor Cen-
5 ter shall be completed by the Architect of the Capitol as
6 soon as practicable after the commencement of construc-
7 tion.

8 **SEC. 4. CONSTRUCTION.**

9 (a) GENERAL RULE.—The Architect of the Capitol
10 may not begin construction of the Capitol Visitor Center
11 until plans, designs, and cost estimates transmitted under
12 section 3 are approved by resolutions adopted by the Com-
13 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
14 of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Ad-
15 ministration of the Senate, respectively.

16 (b) BUILDING CODES.—The Capitol Visitor Center
17 and associated improvements shall meet design standards
18 applicable under nationally recognized building codes, as
19 determined by the Architect of the Capitol. During con-
20 struction, the Architect shall conduct periodic inspections
21 of the Capitol Visitor Center for the purpose of assuring
22 that such standards are being met.

23 (c) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LAWS.—The Capitol
24 Visitor Center and associated improvements and the con-
25 struction thereof shall not be subject to any Federal or

1 State law (including laws of the District of Columbia) re-
2 lating to taxes, building codes, permits, or inspections.

3 **SEC. 5. GIFTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of carrying out
5 section 2(a)(1), the Architect of the Capitol may solicit,
6 receive, accept, hold, and dispose of gifts or donations of
7 services or property.

8 (b) DEPOSIT OF RECEIPTS.—The Architect of the
9 Capitol shall deposit into the account established by sec-
10 tion 6(a) all monetary gifts received under subsection (a)
11 and all proceeds from the disposition of nonmonetary gifts
12 received under subsection (a).

13 (c) TREATMENT UNDER TAX LAWS.—Any gift ac-
14 cepted by the Architect of the Capitol under subsection
15 (a) shall be considered a gift to the United States for the
16 purposes of income, estate, and gift tax laws of the United
17 States.

18 **SEC. 6. ACCOUNT IN THE TREASURY.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
20 Treasury of the United States a separate account entitled
21 “Architect of the Capitol, Capitol Buildings and Grounds,
22 Capitol Visitor Center, Gifts and Donations” which shall
23 consist of amounts deposited into the account by the Ar-
24 chitect of the Capitol under section 5(b) and amounts
25 credited to the account pursuant to this section.

1 (b) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Funds in the ac-
2 count established by subsection (a) shall be available to
3 the Architect of the Capitol for carrying out section
4 2(a)(1) in such amounts as are specified in appropriations
5 Acts. Such funds shall not be subject to any fiscal year
6 limitation.

7 (c) REPORTING OF TRANSACTIONS.—Receipts, obli-
8 gations, and expenditures of funds in the account estab-
9 lished by subsection (a) shall be reported in annual esti-
10 mates submitted to Congress by the Architect of the Cap-
11 itol for the operation and maintenance of the Capitol
12 Buildings and Grounds.

13 (d) INVESTMENT.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treas-
15 ury shall invest such portion of the account estab-
16 lished by subsection (a) as is not, in the judgment
17 of the Secretary, required to meet current withdraw-
18 als. Such investments may be made only in interest-
19 bearing obligations of the United States. For such
20 purpose, such obligations may be acquired—

21 (A) on original issue at the issue price; or

22 (B) by purchase of outstanding obligations
23 at the market price.

1 (2) SALE OF OBLIGATIONS.—Any obligation ac-
2 quired by the account may be sold at the market
3 price.

4 (3) INTEREST ON CERTAIN PROCEEDS.—The
5 interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or re-
6 demption of, any obligations held in the account
7 shall be credited to and form part of the account.

8 **SEC. 7. AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT.**

9 The Architect of the Capitol may enter into contracts,
10 using procedures other than competitive procedures, in
11 carrying out section 2(a)(1).

12 **SEC. 8. SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF UNITED STATES CAPITOL**
13 **PRESERVATION COMMISSION.**

14 (a) DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS.—The United
15 States Capitol Preservation Commission is authorized to
16 delegate to the Special Committee appointed pursuant to
17 the amendment made by subsection (b) the functions of
18 the Commission under this Act.

19 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 801 of the Arizona-
20 Idaho Conservation Act of 1988 (40 U.S.C. 188a) is
21 amended by adding at the end the following:

22 “(f) SPECIAL COMMITTEE.—

23 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission is au-
24 thorized to establish a Special Committee consisting
25 of 3 Members of Congress as follows:

1 “(A) One Member of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives to be appointed by the Commission.

3 “(B) One Member of the Senate to be ap-
4 pointed by the Commission.

5 “(C) One Member of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives or the Senate to be appointed by
7 the 2 members appointed pursuant to subpara-
8 graphs (A) and (B).

9 “(2) CHAIRMAN; FUNCTIONS.—The Special
10 Committee established pursuant to paragraph (1)
11 shall elect its own chairperson and shall provide the
12 Architect of the Capitol with all necessary oversight
13 and direction in the exercise of the authority granted
14 to the Architect under the Capitol Visitor Center
15 Authorization Act of 1995.”.

16 **SEC. 9. FUNDING LIMITATION.**

17 (a) GENERAL RULE.—Funds for the payment of ex-
18 penses incurred by the Architect of the Capitol in carrying
19 out section 2(a)(1) shall be derived solely from the account
20 established by section 6(a).

21 (b) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Subsection (a)
22 shall not be construed as limiting the use of any funds
23 for the repair, reconstruction, or improvement of any ex-
24 isting structure of the United States Capitol.

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