

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4366

To establish in the Office of the Architect of the Capitol the position of Director of Fire Safety and Protection to assume responsibility for fire safety and protection activities of the Architect of the Capitol, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2000

Mr. HOYER (for himself, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ANDREWS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To establish in the Office of the Architect of the Capitol the position of Director of Fire Safety and Protection to assume responsibility for fire safety and protection activities of the Architect of the 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 “United States Capitol
5 Fire Protection Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) although progress has been made in recent
2 years, the Capitol, House and Senate Office Build-
3 ings, and Library of Congress still do not provide
4 staff and visitors with the fire safety and protection
5 they deserve;

6 (2) the Architect of the Capitol must place
7 great emphasis on the need to ensure that these and
8 other properties administered by the Architect, and
9 individuals who visit or work in these properties,
10 enjoy the maximum protection that modern tech-
11 nology and human diligence can provide against fire
12 and related threats to life and property; and

13 (3) properties and structures of the United
14 States Capitol Complex are of historical and archi-
15 tectural significance and are an essential public and
16 national resource, and it is essential that they be
17 preserved and rehabilitated in such a manner as to
18 retain their historical and architectural significance.

19 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to estab-
20 lish the position of the Director of Fire Safety and Protec-
21 tion to assist the Architect of the Capitol in meeting the
22 Architect's responsibilities for fire safety and protection
23 so that the properties of the United States Capitol Com-
24 plex will be protected from fire and serve as a safe environ-
25 ment for those who work or visit there.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF**
2 **FIRE SAFETY AND PROTECTION.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established in
4 the Office of the Architect of the Capitol the position of
5 Director of Fire Safety and Protection.

6 (b) APPOINTMENT; COMPENSATION.—

7 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Director of Fire Safe-
8 ty and Protection shall be appointed by the Archi-
9 tect of the Capitol from among individuals with the
10 knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to carry out
11 the duties described in this Act.

12 (2) COMPENSATION.—The Architect of the
13 Capitol shall fix the rate of basic pay and benefits
14 for the Director of Fire Safety and Protection at
15 such rate as the Architect considers appropriate, ex-
16 cept that such rate may not be less than the rate of
17 pay and benefits for the Director of Engineering
18 under the Architect of the Capitol.

19 (c) DUTIES.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Working under the direction
21 and control of the Architect of the Capitol and re-
22 porting directly to the Architect, the Director of Fire
23 Safety and Protection shall—

24 (A) be responsible for all fire safety and
25 protection activities of the Architect of the Cap-
26 itol;

1 (B) ensure that Architect properties meet
2 the applicable codes and standards established
3 by the National Fire Protection Association, ex-
4 cept that the Architect may modify the applica-
5 tion of such codes to the properties to take into
6 account the historic and architecturally signifi-
7 cant features of such properties so long as a
8 reasonable degree of safety and protection is
9 maintained; and

10 (C) carry out the duties specified in para-
11 graph (2).

12 (2) DUTIES SPECIFIED.—The duties specified
13 in this paragraph are as follows:

14 (A) The routine periodic testing and main-
15 tenance of all fire alarm, fire suppression, and
16 fire protection systems in all Architect prop-
17 erties.

18 (B) The conduct of comprehensive inspec-
19 tions and risk assessments on a regular basis
20 (but not less frequently than once each year) of
21 all Architect properties to identify conditions
22 which constitute fire hazards and to develop
23 plans for the prompt abatement of such condi-
24 tions, in accordance with the requirements spec-
25 ified in paragraph (1)(B).

1 (C) The development and implementation
2 of programs to train employees of the Architect
3 of the Capitol and others in the proper use and
4 maintenance of fire alarm, fire suppression, and
5 fire protection systems and in the proper use
6 and storage of hazardous chemicals and mate-
7 rials.

8 (D) The identification of structural
9 changes and repairs which may be necessary to
10 assure maximum fire protection and safety in
11 Architect properties, and the development of
12 comprehensive plans to carry out such changes.

13 (E) The preparation of semi-annual re-
14 ports on the efforts made by the Director to
15 carry out the duties required under this sub-
16 section.

17 (F) Consultation with experts in fire safety
18 and protection regarding the modification of
19 codes and standards carried out pursuant to
20 paragraph (1)(B) and such other matters relat-
21 ing to the Director's duties as the Director con-
22 siders appropriate.

23 (G) Such other steps as may be reasonably
24 necessary to protect Architect properties from

1 fire and provide a safe environment for employ-
2 ees and visitors.

3 **SEC. 4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ARCHITECT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Architect of the Capitol shall
5 provide the Director of Fire Safety and Protection with
6 such staff and other resources as the Director may reason-
7 ably require to carry out duties under this Act, except that
8 the Architect of the Capitol shall assign not fewer than
9 12 full-time-equivalent employees to the Director for car-
10 rying out such duties.

11 (b) BUDGET REQUEST.—Beginning with fiscal year
12 2002, the Architect of the Capitol shall include in the
13 budget request for the Architect for a fiscal year a sepa-
14 rate statement of the total amount to be used to carry
15 out the duties of the Director of Fire Safety and Protec-
16 tion in the fiscal year.

17 (c) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.—The Architect shall
18 submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House
19 of Representatives and Senate, the Committee on House
20 Administration of the House of Representatives, the Com-
21 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
22 of Representatives, and the Committee on Rules and Ad-
23 ministration of the Senate the semi-annual reports pre-
24 pared by the Director of Fire Safety and Protection under
25 section 3(c)(2)(E).

1 **SEC. 5. ARCHITECT PROPERTIES DEFINED.**

2 In this Act, the term “Architect properties” means
3 any properties under the jurisdiction of the Architect of
4 the Capitol, including the Capitol, House and Senate Of-
5 fice Buildings, the Library of Congress, the United States
6 Botanic Garden, and the Capitol Power Plant.

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