

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6286

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to complete and submit a master plan for a headquarters location in the District of Columbia or elsewhere, within 360 days.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2006

Ms. HARRIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to complete and submit a master plan for a headquarters location in the District of Columbia or elsewhere, within 360 days.

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 “Department of Home-
5 land Security Stabilization and Security Enhancement Act
6 of 2006”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Congress debated an appropriate location to
2 house leadership elements of the Department and ul-
3 timately transferred the Nebraska Avenue Complex
4 (NAC) facilities, located in northwest Washington,
5 DC, from the Navy to the jurisdiction, custody, and
6 control of the Administrator of General Services to
7 accommodate the leadership of the new Department
8 under Public Law 108–268.

9 (2) Congress contemplated that the NAC would
10 be a temporary station for the Department’s leader-
11 ship due to security concerns.

12 (3) There is dispute whether Public Law 108–
13 268 was intended to establish an official Department
14 headquarters at all. There is no occurrence of the
15 term “headquarters” in Public Law 108–268 other
16 than in the long title, which has no legislative effect,
17 and Members of Congress expressed direct opposi-
18 tion to such a notion in floor debates.

19 (4) The NAC was chosen as the initial leader-
20 ship station because it included preexisting infra-
21 structure and basic security measures that would
22 allow the new Department’s leadership to become
23 adequately operational in a short period of time.

1 (5) The security of the NAC remains a serious
2 concern, especially in light of security breaches and
3 lapses.

4 (6) Some discussions and concrete steps have
5 been taken to move the headquarters of at least one
6 component of the Department, the Coast Guard, to
7 the West Campus of St. Elizabeth’s Hospital. These
8 discussions have contemplated moving other leader-
9 ship components of the Department to St. Eliza-
10 beth’s Hospital at an unknown time in the future.

11 (7) St. Elizabeth’s Hospital was founded by
12 Congress in 1852 and opened in 1855 as the Gov-
13 ernment Hospital for the Insane, more commonly re-
14 ferred to as an “insane asylum”.

15 (8) As recent as 2002, according to the Na-
16 tional Trust for Historic Preservation, St. Eliza-
17 beth’s Hospital was one of the “11 Most Endan-
18 gered Places” and “is crumbling”.

19 (9) St. Elizabeth’s Hospital has been considered
20 for a headquarters location for components of the
21 Department because, according to a statement of ad-
22 ministration policy, dated May 25, 2006, the “facil-
23 ity has been identified by the General Services Ad-
24 ministration as the only federally owned secure cam-
25 pus readily available in Washington, D.C.”.

1 (10) Congress has suspended the Coast Guard's
2 plans to relocate to St. Elizabeth's Hospital because
3 of the lack of sufficient planning, inadequate coordi-
4 nation with appropriate congressional oversight com-
5 mittees, and an overall haphazard approach.

6 (11) Under sections 71 and 72 of title 4,
7 United States Code, headquarters of Federal Gov-
8 ernment agencies and departments are generally re-
9 quired to be located in the District of Columbia ab-
10 sent a statutory exemption.

11 (12) In the past, Congress has granted waivers
12 from such requirement to agencies and departments
13 that, due to national security concerns, require en-
14 hanced security and additional space and, therefore,
15 should consider locating outside the District of Co-
16 lumbia. Such waivers have been granted, for exam-
17 ple, to the Department of Defense, the Central Intel-
18 ligence Agency, and the Nuclear Regulatory Com-
19 mission.

20 (13) The Department of Homeland Security,
21 like the Department of Defense, the Central Intel-
22 ligence Agency, and the Nuclear Regulatory Com-
23 mission, is a Federal entity with a critical national
24 security mission. The rationale for relocating those
25 entities should be considered in establishing a new

1 headquarters for the Department of Homeland Secu-
2 rity.

3 (14) The Department of Homeland Security re-
4 mains a young Federal entity and should begin to
5 pull together its disparate parts into a single secure
6 location in order to stabilize the Department to
7 make it more effective.

8 (15) It is desirable, given its critical mission, to
9 give the Department the space and resources it
10 needs to ensure the safety of its employees, to en-
11 sure the security and stability of the Department, to
12 improve integration among its agencies, and to make
13 it more effective for the ultimate purpose of securing
14 the homeland and protecting the American people.

15 (16) Given the critical national security mission
16 of the Department, it should establish a permanent
17 home, either inside or outside of the District of Co-
18 lumbia, that enables it to more effectively carry out
19 its mission.

20 (17) The Department's headquarters should be
21 a new 21st century complex tailored to the specific
22 needs of the Department and should, among other
23 things, be secure in all respects, contain superior
24 physical, technological, and communicative infra-
25 structure, include a working environment conducive

1 to high productivity, be accessible to personnel, cap-
2 italize on modern technologies, and provide enough
3 physical space for future expansion.

4 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE LOCATION FOR HEAD-**
5 **QUARTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME-**
6 **LAND SECURITY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Homeland Security
8 Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 111 et seq.) is amended by adding
9 at the end the following:

10 **“SEC. 104. HEADQUARTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.**

11 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to
12 strengthen and stabilize the Department and make it more
13 effective by pulling together disparate leadership compo-
14 nents into a permanent and more secure location.

15 “(b) MASTER PLAN.—The Secretary and the Admin-
16 istrator of General Services, within 360 days after the
17 date of the enactment of this section, shall jointly complete
18 and submit a comprehensive master plan for the establish-
19 ment of a 21st century permanent headquarters for the
20 Department in the District of Columbia or elsewhere, to
21 the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the
22 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,
23 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
24 mental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on

1 Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation
2 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

3 “(c) PERMANENCY.—The master plan shall be de-
4 signed as a permanent solution to establishing the Depart-
5 ment’s headquarters.”.

6 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
7 in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by inserting after
8 the item relating to section 103 the following:

“Sec. 104. Headquarters of the Department.”.

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