

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2280

To amend title 40, United States Code, to direct the Administrator of General Services to incorporate bird-safe building materials and design features into public buildings, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 2015

Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. GRJALVA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. CONYERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 40, United States Code, to direct the Administrator of General Services to incorporate bird-safe building materials and design features into public buildings, 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 “Federal Bird-Safe
5 Buildings Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Nearly one-third of the 800 bird species in
2 the United States are endangered, threatened, or in
3 significant decline.

4 (2) In the United States alone, an estimated 1
5 billion birds die annually from striking buildings,
6 bridges, and other manmade structures, with glass
7 being one of the primary causes of the deaths.

8 (3) Birds have a significant impact on the
9 United States economy, as evidenced by United
10 States Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that the
11 47 million birdwatchers in the United States con-
12 tribute \$40 billion annually to the Nation’s economy.

13 (4) The General Services Administration is obli-
14 gated, under Executive Order 13186, to “support
15 the conservation intent of the migratory bird conven-
16 tions by integrating bird conservation principles,
17 measures, and practices into agency activities and by
18 avoiding or minimizing, to the extent practicable, ad-
19 verse impacts on migratory bird resources when con-
20 ducting agency actions”.

21 **SEC. 3. USE OF BIRD-SAFE BUILDING MATERIALS AND DE-**
22 **SIGN FEATURES.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 40, United
24 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating sections 3314, 3315, and
2 3316 as sections 3315, 3316, and 3317, respectively;
3 and

4 (2) by inserting after section 3313 the fol-
5 lowing:

6 **“§ 3314. Use of bird-safe building materials and de-**
7 **sign features**

8 “(a) CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, AND ACQUI-
9 TION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—Each public building con-
10 structed, substantially altered, or acquired by the Admin-
11 istrator of General Services shall meet, to the maximum
12 extent feasible, as determined by the Administrator, the
13 following standards:

14 “(1) At least 90 percent of the exposed facade
15 material from ground level to 40 feet—

16 “(A) shall not be composed of glass; or

17 “(B) shall be composed of glass employ-
18 ing—

19 “(i) elements that preclude bird colli-
20 sions without completely obscuring vision,
21 such as secondary facades, netting,
22 screens, shutters, and exterior shades;

23 “(ii) ultraviolet (UV) patterned glass
24 that contains UV-reflective or contrasting
25 patterns that are visible to birds;

1 “(iii) patterns on glass designed in ac-
2 cordance with a rule that restricts hori-
3 zontal spaces to less than 2 inches high
4 and vertical spaces to less than 4 inches
5 wide, commonly referred to as the ‘2 X 4
6 rule’;

7 “(iv) opaque, etched, stained, frosted,
8 or translucent glass; or

9 “(v) any combination of the methods
10 described in this subparagraph.

11 “(2) At least 60 percent of the exposed facade
12 material above 40 feet shall meet the standard de-
13 scribed in paragraph (1)(A) or (1)(B).

14 “(3) There shall not be any transparent pas-
15 sageways or corners.

16 “(4) All glass adjacent to atria or courtyards
17 containing water features, plants, and other mate-
18 rials attractive to birds shall meet the standard de-
19 scribed in paragraph (1)(B).

20 “(5) Outside lighting shall be appropriately
21 shielded and minimized.

22 “(b) MONITORING.—The Administrator shall take
23 such actions as may be necessary to ensure that actual
24 bird mortality is monitored at each public building.

25 “(c) EXISTING BUILDINGS AND LIGHTING.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, where
2 practicable, as determined by the Administrator,
3 shall reduce exterior building and site lighting for
4 each public building.

5 “(2) USE OF AUTOMATIC CONTROL TECH-
6 NOLOGIES.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Ad-
7 ministrator shall make use of automatic control
8 technologies, including timers, photo-sensors, and in-
9 frared and motion detectors.

10 “(d) EXEMPT BUILDINGS.—This section shall not
11 apply to—

12 “(1) a historic building of national significance
13 within the meaning of the Act of August 21, 1935
14 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.; commonly known as the His-
15 toric Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act);

16 “(2) the White House and its grounds;

17 “(3) the Supreme Court building and its
18 grounds; or

19 “(4) the United States Capitol and its related
20 buildings and grounds.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such
22 chapter is amended by striking the items relating to sec-
23 tions 3314, 3315, and 3316 and inserting the following:

“3314. Use of bird-safe building materials and design features.

“3315. Delegation.

“3316. Report to Congress.

“3317. Certain authority not affected.”.

