

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4968

To require executive agencies to notify the public and consider public comment before relocating an office of the agency that has regular contact with the public, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2016

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To require executive agencies to notify the public and consider public comment before relocating an office of the agency that has regular contact with the public, 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 “Preserving Public Ac-
5 cess to Federal Buildings Act of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO RELOCATION OF**
2 **CERTAIN FEDERAL OFFICES.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—An executive agency shall provide
4 notice to the public and an opportunity for public com-
5 ment before relocating an office of the agency if the office
6 has regular contact with the public.

7 (b) **COVERED RELOCATIONS.**—Subsection (a) shall
8 apply to—

9 (1) a relocation proposed by an executive agen-
10 cy; or

11 (2) a reassignment of office space of an execu-
12 tive agency by the Administrator of General Serv-
13 ices.

14 (c) **INITIAL DETERMINATION AND PLAN.**—

15 (1) **INITIAL DETERMINATION.**—Before an execu-
16 tive agency provides notice of the relocation of an
17 office under subsection (a), the agency shall deter-
18 mine if the agency expects the relocation to impact
19 the ability of the office’s clientele to access services
20 provided by the office.

21 (2) **INITIAL PLAN.**—If the agency determines
22 under paragraph (1) that such relocation is expected
23 to have such impact, the agency shall develop an ini-
24 tial plan to address the impact.

25 (d) **NOTICE AND COMMENT.**—

1 (1) RECIPIENTS.—In providing notice of the re-
2 location of an office under subsection (a), an execu-
3 tive agency shall ensure that the notice is received
4 by—

5 (A) entities that regularly serve the clien-
6 tele of the office, including nonprofit organiza-
7 tions and advocacy groups;

8 (B) local media outlets;

9 (C) Members of Congress that represent
10 the area where the office is located; and

11 (D) the Committee on Transportation and
12 Infrastructure and the Committee on Oversight
13 and Government Reform of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland
15 Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-
16 ate.

17 (2) CONTENT.—If an initial plan was developed
18 under subsection (c)(2), the notice shall include a
19 description of the initial plan.

20 (e) SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC INTEREST.—If, after an
21 executive agency provides notice of the relocation of an
22 office under subsection (a), the relocation receives sub-
23 stantial public interest, the agency shall—

24 (1) conduct an in-depth evaluation of the poten-
25 tial impact of the relocation on the ability of the of-

1 office’s clientele to access services provided by the of-
2 fice, particularly with respect to minority groups,
3 persons with disabilities, the elderly, and the eco-
4 nomically disadvantaged;

5 (2) develop a plan to address such impact or re-
6 vise an initial plan developed under subsection
7 (c)(2); and

8 (3) publish the results of the evaluation and a
9 description of the plan on the public website of the
10 agency.

11 (f) GUIDANCE ON TERMS.—Not later than 180 days
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director
13 of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation
14 with the Administrator of General Services and the Fed-
15 eral Real Property Council, shall issue guidance for agen-
16 cies on the meaning of each of the terms “regular contact
17 with the public” and “substantial public interest” for pur-
18 poses of this section.

19 (g) EXECUTIVE AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section,
20 the term “executive agency” means—

21 (1) an executive department or independent es-
22 tablishment in the executive branch of the Govern-
23 ment; and

24 (2) a wholly owned Government corporation.

1 (h) APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall apply to the
2 relocation of an office of an executive agency initiated on
3 or after the date that is 270 days after the date of the
4 enactment of this Act.

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