

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3551

To ensure that Members of Congress have access to Federal facilities in order to exercise their constitutional oversight responsibilities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2019

Mr. CASTRO of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

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## A BILL

To ensure that Members of Congress have access to Federal facilities in order to exercise their constitutional oversight responsibilities.

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 “Restoring Oversight  
5       for Members of Congress Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. RESTORING OVERSIGHT THROUGH ACCESS TO FED-**  
7       **ERAL FACILITIES FOR MEMBERS.**

8       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

9               (1) the term “committee of jurisdiction”, with  
10       respect to a Federal facility, means the committee of

1 the Senate or the House of Representatives with ju-  
2 risdiction of the activities carried out at the Federal  
3 facility;

4 (2) the term “Federal facility”—

5 (A) means a facility, or portion of a facil-  
6 ity, that is owned or controlled by the Federal  
7 Government; and

8 (B) includes—

9 (i) a facility, or portion of a facility,  
10 used by the Federal Government under a  
11 contract or lease; and

12 (ii) a facility, or portion of a facility,  
13 at which operations are carried out under  
14 the authority of the Federal Government  
15 granted under a contract or other agree-  
16 ment with the Federal Government; and

17 (3) the term “Member of Congress”—

18 (A) has the meaning given that term under  
19 section 2106 of title 5, United States Code; and

20 (B) does not include the Vice President.

21 (b) ACCESS TO FACILITIES.—Subject to subsection  
22 (c)(4), the head of the agency that controls access to a  
23 Federal facility, or the manager of the Federal facility,  
24 shall provide a Member of Congress seeking access to the

1 Federal facility with immediate access to the Federal facil-  
2 ity.

3 (c) RESTRICTIONS OF ACCESS FOR NATIONAL SECUR-  
4 RITY REASONS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the head of an agency  
6 wishes to restrict the access of Members of Congress  
7 to a Federal facility for national security reasons,  
8 the head of the agency shall submit to the committee  
9 of jurisdiction of each House of Congress a report  
10 explaining the articulable national security damage  
11 that would result from providing access to the Fed-  
12 eral facility to a Member of Congress.

13 (2) NEGOTIATED PROTOCOLS.—If the head of  
14 an agency submits a report under paragraph (1)  
15 with respect to a Federal facility, the committees of  
16 jurisdiction shall seek to negotiate with the head of  
17 the agency protocols under which all Members of  
18 Congress may access the Federal facility.

19 (3) REPORT SEEKING TO LIMIT ACCESS.—If the  
20 head of an agency determines that the agency does  
21 not believe protocols can be established under which  
22 all Members of Congress may access the Federal fa-  
23 cility, the head of the agency shall submit to the  
24 committee of jurisdiction of each House of Congress

1 a report explaining the national security reasons  
2 that such protocols cannot be established.

3 (4) LIMIT ON ACCESS.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
5 subparagraph (B), for a Federal facility with  
6 respect to which the head of an agency submits  
7 a report under paragraph (3), with the approval  
8 of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the  
9 committee of jurisdiction of each House of Con-  
10 gress, access to the Federal facility may be lim-  
11 ited for national security reasons to Members of  
12 Congress who are members of a committee of  
13 jurisdiction.

14 (B) CERTAIN OVERSEAS FACILITIES.—For  
15 a Federal facility that is located outside the  
16 United States and presents exceptional physical  
17 security concerns with respect to which the  
18 head of an agency submits a report under para-  
19 graph (3), with the approval of the Chairman  
20 and Ranking Member of the committee of juris-  
21 diction of each House of Congress, the Federal  
22 facility may be restricted for national security  
23 reasons from all access by Members of Con-  
24 gress.

25 (5) ACCESS TO FACILITIES.—

1 (A) PROTOCOLS.—If the head of an agency  
2 and the committees of jurisdiction negotiate  
3 protocols under paragraph (2) with respect to a  
4 Federal facility, the head of the agency that  
5 controls access to a Federal facility, or the  
6 manager of the Federal facility, shall provide a  
7 Member of Congress seeking access to the Fed-  
8 eral facility with immediate access to the Fed-  
9 eral facility in accordance with such protocols.

10 (B) DISAPPROVAL.—If the Chairman and  
11 Ranking Member of the committee of jurisdic-  
12 tion of each House of Congress do not approve  
13 restricting access to a Federal facility under  
14 subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (4), the  
15 head of the agency that controls access to a  
16 Federal facility, or the manager of the Federal  
17 facility, shall provide a Member of Congress  
18 seeking access to the Federal facility with im-  
19 mediate access to the Federal facility in accord-  
20 ance with subsection (b).

21 (6) NONDELEGATION.—The duties and authori-  
22 ties of the head of an agency under paragraphs (1)  
23 through (4) may not be delegated.

24 (d) CONTRACTS.—The head of each agency shall en-  
25 sure that any contract, lease, or other agreement with a

1 non-Federal individual or entity relating to a Federal facil-  
2 ity that is entered into or modified after the date of enact-  
3 ment of this Act includes a requirement to provide access  
4 to Members of Congress in accordance with this Act.

5 (e) PENALTIES.—Any person who violates this Act,  
6 including the head of an agency, any officer or employee  
7 to whom duties under this Act are delegated, and any indi-  
8 vidual or entity entering a contract or lease with the Fed-  
9 eral Government relating to a Federal facility, shall be  
10 fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for  
11 not more than 1 year, or both.

12 (f) FINDINGS.—A Member of Congress may enter a  
13 statement into the Congressional Record detailing the  
14 findings of the Member of Congress based on accessing  
15 a Federal facility.

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