

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3196

To provide for the appointment of the Architect of the Capitol, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2023

Mr. STEIL (for himself and Mr. MORELLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for the appointment 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 “Architect of the Capitol
5 Appointment Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. APPOINTMENT AND TERM OF SERVICE OF ARCHI-**
2 **TECT OF THE CAPITOL.**

3 (a) APPOINTMENT.—The Architect of the Capitol
4 shall be appointed, without regard to political affiliation
5 and solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties
6 of the office, upon a majority vote of a congressional com-
7 mission (referred to in this section as the “commission”)
8 consisting of the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
9 the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leaders of
10 the House of Representatives and Senate, the chair and
11 ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropria-
12 tions of the House of Representatives, the chairman and
13 ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropria-
14 tions of the Senate, the chair and ranking minority mem-
15 ber of the Committee on House Administration of the
16 House of Representatives, and the chairman and ranking
17 minority member of the Committee on Rules and Adminis-
18 tration of the Senate.

19 (b) TERM OF SERVICE.—The Architect of the Capitol
20 shall be appointed for a term of 10 years and, upon a
21 majority vote of the members of the commission, may be
22 reappointed for additional 10-year terms.

23 (c) REMOVAL.—The Architect of the Capitol may be
24 removed from office at any time upon a majority vote of
25 the members of the commission.

26 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1 (1) Section 319 of the Legislative Branch Ap-
2 propriations Act, 1990 (2 U.S.C. 1801) is repealed.

3 (2) The matter under the heading “FOR THE
4 CAPITOL:” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF
5 THE INTERIOR.” of the Act of February 14, 1902
6 (32 Stat. 19, chapter 17; incorporated in 2 U.S.C.
7 1811) is amended by striking “, and he shall be ap-
8 pointed by the President”.

9 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and the amend-
10 ments made by this section, shall apply with respect to
11 appointments made on or after the date of enactment of
12 this Act.

13 **SEC. 3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY ARCHITECT OF THE**
14 **CAPITOL; VACANCY IN ARCHITECT OR DEP-**
15 **UTY ARCHITECT.**

16 Section 1203 of title I of division H of the Consoli-
17 dated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (2 U.S.C. 1805)
18 is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) by inserting “(in this section referred
21 to as the ‘Architect’)” after “The Architect of
22 the Capitol”; and

23 (B) by inserting “(in this section referred
24 to as the ‘Deputy Architect’)” after “Deputy
25 Architect of the Capitol”;

1 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
2 section (c);

3 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(b) DEADLINE.—The Architect shall appoint a Dep-
6 uty Architect under subsection (a) not later than 120 days
7 after—

8 “(1) the date on which the Architect is ap-
9 pointed under section 2 of the Architect of the Cap-
10 itol Appointment Act of 2023, if there is no Deputy
11 Architect on the date of the appointment; or

12 “(2) the date on which a vacancy arises in the
13 office of the Deputy Architect.”;

14 (4) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by
15 striking “of the Capitol” each place it appears; and

16 (5) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(d) FAILURE TO APPOINT.—If the Architect does
18 not appoint a Deputy Architect on or before the applicable
19 date specified in subsection (b), the congressional commis-
20 sion described in section 2(a) of the Architect of the Cap-
21 itol Appointment Act of 2023 shall appoint the Deputy
22 Architect by a majority vote of the members of the com-
23 mission.

24 “(e) NOTIFICATION.—If the position of Deputy Ar-
25 chitect becomes vacant, the Architect shall immediately

1 notify the members of the congressional commission de-
2 scribed in section 2(a) of the Architect of the Capitol Ap-
3 pointment Act of 2023.”.

4 **SEC. 4. DEPUTY ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL TO SERVE AS**
5 **ACTING IN CASE OF ABSENCE, DISABILITY,**
6 **OR VACANCY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Architect of the Cap-
8 itol (in this section referred to as the “Deputy Architect”)
9 shall act as Architect of the Capitol (in this section re-
10 ferred to as the “Architect”) if the Architect is absent or
11 disabled or there is no Architect.

12 (b) ABSENCE, DISABILITY, OR VACANCY IN OFFICE
13 OF DEPUTY ARCHITECT.—For purposes of subsection (a),
14 if the Deputy Architect is also absent or disabled or there
15 is no Deputy Architect, the congressional commission de-
16 scribed in section 2(a) shall designate, by a majority vote
17 of the members of the commission, an individual to serve
18 as acting Architect until—

19 (1) the end of the absence or disability of the
20 Architect or the Deputy Architect; or

21 (2) in the case of vacancies in both positions,
22 an Architect has been appointed under section 2(a)
23 of this Act.

24 (c) AUTHORITY.—An officer serving as acting Archi-
25 tect under subsection (a) or (b) shall perform all the duties

1 and exercise all the authorities of the Architect, including
2 the authority to delegate the duties and authorities of the
3 Architect in accordance with the matter under the heading
4 “OFFICE OF THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL” under
5 the heading “ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL” of the
6 Legislative Appropriation Act, 1956 (2 U.S.C. 1803).

7 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The matter under
8 the heading “SALARIES” under the heading “OFFICE OF
9 THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL” under the heading
10 “ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL” of the Legislative
11 Branch Appropriation Act, 1971 (2 U.S.C. 1804) is
12 amended by striking “: *Provided*,” and all that follows
13 through “no Architect”.

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