

SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CONGRESSIONAL TIME CAPSULE
ACT

NOVEMBER 19, 2024.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union ordered to be printed

Mr. STEIL, from the Committee on House Administration,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 6394]

The Committee on House Administration, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6394) to provide for the creation of a Congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial of the United States, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 6394, the Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act, introduced by Representatives Bonnie Watson Coleman, Maria Salazar, Dwight Evans, Robert Aderholt, Lisa McClain, Brendan

Boyle, Chris Pappas, Lori Trahan, Jamie Raskin, Robert Wittman, Troy Nehls, Donald Davis, Glenn Thompson, Dina Titus, Paul Tonko, Josh Gottheimer, Thomas Kean, and Michael Lawler, would authorize a time capsule to be buried on the Capitol Grounds to mark the nation's Semiquincentennial.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

BACKGROUND

In 2026, the United States of America will celebrate 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Numerous events and commemorations are planned to mark the Nation's Semiquincentennial. To mark the Nation's 100th, Congress buried the Centennial Safe, a time capsule filled with items related to the Centennial, and it was opened as instructed in the Capitol Rotunda by the President on the Bicentennial. Reflective of this, it was proposed that Congress bury another Congressional time capsule to mark the 250th to be opened upon the nation's 500th.

NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 6394, the Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act, introduced by Representatives Bonnie Watson Coleman, Maria Salazar, Dwight Evans, Robert Aderholt, Lisa McClain, Brendan Boyle, Chris Pappas, Lori Trahan, Jamie Raskin, Robert Wittman, Troy Nehls, Donald Davis, Glenn Thompson, Dina Titus, Paul Tonko, Josh Gottheimer, Thomas Kean, and Michael Lawler, would authorize a time capsule to be buried on the Capitol Grounds to mark the nation's Semiquincentennial.

The bill would authorize a time capsule to be buried on the Capitol Grounds to mark the nation's Semiquincentennial. The work would be facilitated by the Architect of the Capitol and buried by the Architect of the Capitol. The contents of the time capsule will be determined by the offices of the Speaker of the House, the Office of the Minority Leader of the House, and the Offices of the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate. They will include items that represent important legislation or institutional milestones of Congress, a message from the Congress to the future Congress, and other items that reflect our history at the time of its burial in 2026.

COMMITTEE ACTION

INTRODUCTION AND REFERRAL

On November 11, 2023, Representatives Bonnie Watson Coleman, Maria Salazar, Dwight Evans, Robert Aderholt, Lisa McClain, Brendan Boyle, Chris Pappas, Lori Trahan, Jamie Raskin, Robert Wittman, Troy Nehls, Donald Davis, Glenn Thompson, Dina Titus, Paul Tonko, Josh Gottheimer, Thomas Kean, and Michael Lawler introduced H.R. 6394, the Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act. The bill was referred to the United States House of Representatives committees on House Administration and Transportation and Infrastructure.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On September 11, 2024, the Committee on House Administration met in open session and ordered the bill, H.R. 6394, the

Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act, favorably reported, with a quorum being present.

COMMITTEE VOTES

In compliance with clause 3(b) of House rule XIII, the following vote occurred during the Committee's consideration of H.R. 6394:

Vote to report H.R. 6394 favorably, to the House of Representatives, passed by voice vote.

STATEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I of the United States Constitution.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of House rule XIII, the Committee advises that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

STATEMENT OF BUDGET AUTHORITY AND RELATED ITEMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a)(I) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee provides the following opinion and estimate with respect to new budget authority, entitlement authority, and tax expenditures. The Committee believes that there will be no additional costs attributable to H.R. 6394.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, a cost estimate provided by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chairman of the Committee shall cause such an estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record if it is received by the Committee.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The performance goals and objectives of H.R. 6394 are the creation of a time capsule by the Architect of the Capitol, the selection of its contents by the leadership of the Congress, the sealing of the capsule, the burial of the time capsule, and the unsealing of the time capsule until July 4, 2276, on which date the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall present the Time Capsule to the 244th Congress, and such Congress shall determine how the contents within should be preserved or used.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of House rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 6394 establishes or reauthorizes a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another federal program.

ADVISORY ON EARMARKS

In accordance with clause 9 of House rule XXI, H.R. 6394 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clauses 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of House rule XXI.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

An estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chairman of the Committee shall cause such an estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record if it is received by the Committee.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

H.R. 6394 does not establish or authorize any new advisory committees.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1

This section provides a short title for H.R. 6394.

Section 2

This section provides detail on the creation, contents, specifications, and duties of the Architect of the Capitol as they relate to the time capsule.

BRYAN STEIL, WISCONSIN
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One Hundred Eighteenth
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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September 24, 2024

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves:

Thank you for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6394, the *Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act*. For the record, I agree that by waiving consideration, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this legislation. Further, I will ensure that the Committee is appropriately consulted and involved in this legislation as it moves forward.

I will place a copy of the exchange of letters on this legislation in the Congressional Record and the committee report on H.R. 6394. Thank you for your cooperation on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

Sam Graves
Chairman

Jack Keady, Staff Director

Rick Larsen
Ranking Member

Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

September 25, 2024

The Honorable Bryan Steil
 Chairman
 Committee on House Administration
 United States House of Representatives
 1309 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Steil:

Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 6394, the *Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act*. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on House Administration, with an additional referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Specifically, provisions of H.R. 6394 fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, am confirming the Committee on Transportation will forgo action on the bill. I appreciate your acknowledgement that by waiving consideration, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this legislation. Thank you for ensuring the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is appropriately consulted and involved in the legislation as it moves forward.

Finally, I appreciate your willingness to place a copy of the letters acknowledging our jurisdictional interest in the bill in the Committee report and *Congressional Record* during consideration of H.R. 6394 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

Sam Graves
 Chairman
 Committee on Transportation
 and Infrastructure

cc: The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
The Honorable Joseph Morelle, Ranking Member, Committee on House Administration
The Honorable Jason Smith, Parliamentarian

