

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2891

To direct the Administrator of General Services to ensure that the design of public buildings in the United States adheres to the guiding principles for Federal architecture, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 16), 2025

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of General Services to ensure that the design of public buildings in the United States adheres to the guiding principles for Federal architecture, 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 “Democracy in Design
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONTINUING INVESTIGATION AND SURVEY OF PUB-**
2 **LIC BUILDINGS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3303 of title 40, United
4 States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
6 paragraph (1), by inserting “(referred to in this sec-
7 tion as the ‘Administrator’)” after “Services”; and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(e) GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR FEDERAL ARCHITEC-
10 TURE.—The Administrator shall ensure that the design of
11 public buildings in the United States adheres to the prin-
12 ciples described in the report published by the Ad Hoc
13 Committee on Federal Office Space entitled ‘Guiding
14 Principles for Federal Architecture’ and dated June 1,
15 1962.”.

16 (b) RULEMAKING.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
19 trator of General Services shall promulgate such reg-
20 ulations as are necessary—

21 (A) to implement the amendment made by
22 subsection (a)(2); and

23 (B) to establish minimum standards by
24 which the Administrator of General Services
25 shall design public buildings (as defined in sec-

1 tion 3301(a) of title 40, United States Code) in
2 the United States.

3 (2) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—The regulations
4 required under paragraph (1) shall be issued after
5 notice and an opportunity for public comment in ac-
6 cordance with the procedure applicable to sub-
7 stantive rules under section 553 of title 5, United
8 States Code.

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