

Public Law 97-390
97th Congress

An Act

To provide for appointment and authority of the Supreme Court Police, and for other purposes.

Dec. 29, 1982

[H.R. 6204]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) the first section of the Act entitled "An Act relating to the policing of the building and grounds of the Supreme Court of the United States", approved August 18, 1949 (40 U.S.C. 13f), is amended—

Supreme Court
Police.
Appointment
and authority.

(1) by striking out "special policemen" and inserting in lieu thereof "members of the Supreme Court Police"; and

(2) by striking out ", for duty" and all that follows through "adjacent streets".

(b) Subsection (b) of section 7 of such Act (40 U.S.C. 13l(b)) is amended by striking out "promulgated under" and all that follows through the end of the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof "prescribed under this section shall be posted in a public place at the Supreme Court Building and shall be made reasonably available to the public in writing."

40 USC 13l.

(c)(1) Section 9 of such Act (40 U.S.C. 13n) is amended by striking out "SEC. 9. The special" and all that follows through "Provided, That the Metropolitan Police force of the District of Columbia" and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"SEC. 9. (a) The Marshal of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court Police shall have authority, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Marshal and approved by the Chief Justice of the United States—

"(1) to police the Supreme Court Building and grounds, and adjacent streets for the purpose of protecting persons and property;

"(2) in any part of the United States, to protect—

"(A) the person of the Chief Justice of the United States, any Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and any official guest of the Supreme Court; and

"(B) the person of any officer or employee of the Supreme Court while such officer or employee is engaged in the performance of official duties;

"(3) in the performance of duties necessary for carrying out paragraph (1) of this subsection, to make arrests for any violation of a law of the United States or any State and any regulation under such law;

"(4) in the performance of duties necessary for carrying out paragraph (2) of this subsection, to make arrests for any violation of a law of the United States and any regulation under such law; and

"(5) to carry firearms as may be required for the performance of duties under this Act.

"(b) The Metropolitan police force of the District of Columbia".

(2) Section 9 of such Act (40 U.S.C. 13n), as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

Expiration.
Report to
Congress.

“(c) The authority created under subsection (a)(2) shall expire three years after the date of enactment of this subsection. During the three-year effective period of subsection (a)(2), the Marshal of the Supreme Court shall report annually to the Congress on March 1 regarding the administrative cost of carrying out his duties under such subsection. Duties under subsection (a)(2)(A) of this section with respect to an official guest of the Supreme Court in any part of the United States (other than the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia) shall be authorized in writing by the Chief Justice of the United States or an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, if such duties require the carrying of firearms under subsection (a)(5) of this section.

Definitions.

“(d) As used in this Act, the term—

“(1) ‘official guest of the Supreme Court’ means an individual who is a guest of the Supreme Court, as determined by the Chief Justice of the United States or any Associate Justice of the Supreme Court;

“(2) ‘State’ means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States; and

“(3) ‘United States’, when used in a geographical sense, means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States.”.

(d) Section 11 of such Act (40 U.S.C. 13p) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “In addition to the property referred to in the preceding sentence, for the purposes of this Act, the Supreme Court grounds are comprised of any property under the custody and control of the Supreme Court as part of the Supreme Court grounds, including property acquired as provided by law on behalf of the United States in lots 2, 3, 800, 801, and 802 in square 758 in the District of Columbia as an addition to the grounds of the United States Supreme Court Building.”.

SEC. 2. Section 672(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking out the period at the end of paragraph (7) and inserting in lieu thereof a semicolon; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8) Oversee the Supreme Court Police.”.

SEC. 3. Section 3 of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the acquisition of certain property in square 758 in the District of Columbia as an addition to the grounds of the United States Supreme Court Building”, approved December 15, 1980 (40 U.S.C. 13p note), is amended by striking out “Act of May 7, 1934 (40 U.S.C. 13a through 13p), as amended” and inserting in lieu thereof “Act entitled ‘An Act to provide for the custody and maintenance of the

United States Supreme Court Building and the equipment and grounds thereof, approved May 7, 1934 (40 U.S.C. 13a-13c), and section 6 of the joint resolution entitled 'Joint resolution to provide for the use and disposition of the bequest of the late Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes to the United States, and for other purposes', approved October 22, 1940 (40 U.S.C. 13e)".

Approved December 29, 1982.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 6204 (S. 2601):

HOUSE REPORT No. 97-704 (Comm. on the Judiciary).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 128 (1982):

Aug. 16, considered and passed House.

Oct. 1, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Dec. 13, House concurred in Senate amendment.