

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1230

To authorize the Architect of the Capitol to establish a Capitol Visitor Center under the East Plaza of the United States Capitol, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 1995

Mr. MICA (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. HAMILTON, Mr. EMERSON, Mr. McKEON, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. BLUTE, Mrs. SEASTRAND, Mr. FAZIO of California, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. BREWSTER, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. McHUGH, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. HYDE, Mr. MOORHEAD, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. McINTOSH, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. KNOLLENBERG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To authorize the Architect of the Capitol to establish a Capitol Visitor Center under the East Plaza of the United States 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 “Capitol Visitor Center
5 Authorization Act of 1995”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Architect of the Capitol,
3 under the direction of the United States Capitol Preserva-
4 tion Commission, is authorized—

5 (1) to plan, construct, equip, administer, and
6 maintain a Capitol Visitor Center under the East
7 Plaza of the United States Capitol with associated
8 improvements to the Capitol to provide access there-
9 to; and

10 (2) to reconstruct the environs of the East
11 Plaza of the United States Capitol to enhance its
12 attractiveness, safety, and security.

13 (b) PURPOSE.—It shall be the purpose of the Capitol
14 Visitor Center to provide reception facilities, educational
15 exhibits, amenities, auditoriums, and other programs and
16 facilities for members of the public visiting the United
17 States Capitol.

18 **SEC. 3. ENGINEERING AND DESIGN.**

19 (a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—As soon as practicable
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Architect
21 of the Capitol shall complete engineering and architectural
22 designs and cost estimates for construction of the Capitol
23 Visitor Center and transmit a report on the results thereof
24 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
25 of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Rules

1 and Administration of the Senate, and the United States
2 Capitol Preservation Commission.

3 (b) CONTENTS.—The report to be transmitted under
4 subsection (a) shall include detailed plans, specifications,
5 and cost estimates for construction of the Capitol Visitor
6 Center.

7 (c) PLANS FOR EXHIBITS.—Plans and specifications
8 for the exhibits and equipping of the Capitol Visitor Cen-
9 ter shall be completed by the Architect of the Capitol as
10 soon as practicable after the commencement of construc-
11 tion.

12 **SEC. 4. CONSTRUCTION.**

13 (a) GENERAL RULE.—The Architect of the Capitol
14 may not begin construction of the Capitol Visitor Center
15 until plans, designs, and cost estimates transmitted under
16 section 3 are approved by resolutions adopted by the Com-
17 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
18 of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Ad-
19 ministration of the Senate, respectively.

20 (b) BUILDING CODES.—The Capitol Visitor Center
21 and associated improvements shall meet design standards
22 applicable under nationally recognized building codes, as
23 determined by the Architect of the Capitol. During con-
24 struction, the Architect shall conduct periodic inspections

1 of the Capitol Visitor Center for the purpose of assuring
2 that such standards are being met.

3 (c) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LAWS.—The Capitol
4 Visitor Center and associated improvements and the con-
5 struction thereof shall not be subject to any Federal or
6 State law (including laws of the District of Columbia) re-
7 lating to taxes, building codes, permits, or inspections.

8 **SEC. 5. GIFTS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of carrying out
10 section 2(a)(1), the Architect of the Capitol may solicit,
11 receive, accept, hold, and dispose of gifts or donations of
12 services or property.

13 (b) DEPOSIT OF RECEIPTS.—The Architect of the
14 Capitol shall deposit into the account established by sec-
15 tion 6(a) all monetary gifts received under subsection (a)
16 and all proceeds from the disposition of nonmonetary gifts
17 received under subsection (a).

18 (c) TREATMENT UNDER TAX LAWS.—Any gift ac-
19 cepted by the Architect of the Capitol under subsection
20 (a) shall be considered a gift to the United States for the
21 purposes of income, estate, and gift tax laws of the United
22 States.

23 **SEC. 6. ACCOUNT IN THE TREASURY.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
25 Treasury of the United States a separate account entitled

1 “Architect of the Capitol, Capitol Buildings and Grounds,
2 Capitol Visitor Center, Gifts and Donations” which shall
3 consist of amounts deposited into the account by the Ar-
4 chitect of the Capitol under section 5(b) and amounts
5 credited to the account pursuant to this section.

6 (b) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Funds in the ac-
7 count established by subsection (a) shall be available to
8 the Architect of the Capitol for carrying out section
9 2(a)(1) in such amounts as are specified in appropriations
10 Acts. Such funds shall not be subject to any fiscal year
11 limitation.

12 (c) REPORTING OF TRANSACTIONS.—Receipts, obli-
13 gations, and expenditures of funds in the account estab-
14 lished by subsection (a) shall be reported in annual esti-
15 mates submitted to Congress by the Architect of the Cap-
16 itol for the operation and maintenance of the Capitol
17 Buildings and Grounds.

18 (d) INVESTMENT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treas-
20 ury shall invest such portion of the account estab-
21 lished by subsection (a) as is not, in the judgment
22 of the Secretary, required to meet current withdraw-
23 als. Such investments may be made only in interest-
24 bearing obligations of the United States. For such
25 purpose, such obligations may be acquired—

1 (A) on original issue at the issue price; or
2 (B) by purchase of outstanding obligations
3 at the market price.

4 (2) SALE OF OBLIGATIONS.—Any obligation ac-
5 quired by the account may be sold at the market
6 price.

7 (3) INTEREST ON CERTAIN PROCEEDS.—The
8 interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or re-
9 demption of, any obligations held in the account
10 shall be credited to and form part of the account.

11 **SEC. 7. AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT.**

12 The Architect of the Capitol may enter into contracts,
13 using procedures other than competitive procedures, in
14 carrying out section 2(a)(1).

15 **SEC. 8. SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF UNITED STATES CAPITOL**
16 **PRESERVATION COMMISSION.**

17 (a) DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS.—The United
18 States Capitol Preservation Commission is authorized to
19 delegate to the Special Committee appointed pursuant to
20 the amendment made by subsection (b) the functions of
21 the Commission under this Act.

22 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 801 of the Arizona-
23 Idaho Conservation Act of 1988 (40 U.S.C. 188a) is
24 amended by adding at the end the following:

25 “(f) SPECIAL COMMITTEE.—

1 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission is au-
2 thorized to establish a Special Committee consisting
3 of 3 Members of Congress as follows:

4 “(A) One Member of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives to be appointed by the Commission.

6 “(B) One Member of the Senate to be ap-
7 pointed by the Commission.

8 “(C) One Member of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives or the Senate to be appointed by
10 the 2 members appointed pursuant to subpara-
11 graphs (A) and (B).

12 “(2) CHAIRMAN; FUNCTIONS.—The Special
13 Committee established pursuant to paragraph (1)
14 shall elect its own chairperson and shall provide the
15 Architect of the Capitol with all necessary oversight
16 and direction in the exercise of the authority granted
17 to the Architect under the Capitol Visitor Center
18 Authorization Act of 1995.”.

19 **SEC. 9. FUNDING LIMITATION.**

20 (a) GENERAL RULE.—Funds for the payment of ex-
21 penses incurred by the Architect of the Capitol in carrying
22 out section 2(a)(1) shall be derived solely from the account
23 established by section 6(a).

24 (b) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Subsection (a)
25 shall not be construed as limiting the use of any funds

- 1 for the repair, reconstruction, or improvement of any ex-
- 2 isting structure of the United States Capitol.

