

104<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# **H. R. 2108**

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## **AN ACT**

To permit the Washington Convention Center Authority to expend revenues for the operation and maintenance of the existing Washington Convention Center and for preconstruction activities relating to a new convention center in the District of Columbia, to permit a designated authority of the District of Columbia to borrow funds for the preconstruction activities relating to a sports arena in the District of Columbia and to permit certain revenues to be pledged as security for the borrowing of such funds, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
 5 “District of Columbia Convention Center and Sports  
 6 Arena Authorization Act of 1995”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of  
 8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—CONVENTION CENTER

Sec. 101. Permitting Washington Convention Center Authority to expend reve-  
 nues for convention center activities.

TITLE II—SPORTS ARENA

Sec. 201. Permitting designated authority to borrow funds for preconstruction  
 activities relating to Gallery Place sports arena.

Sec. 202. Permitting certain District revenues to be pledged as security for bor-  
 rowing.

Sec. 203. No appropriation necessary for arena preconstruction activities.

Sec. 204. Arena preconstruction activities described.

TITLE III—WAIVER OF CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW

Sec. 301. Waiver of Congressional review of Arena Tax Payment and Use  
 Amendment Act of 1995.

9 **TITLE I—CONVENTION CENTER**

10 **SEC. 101. PERMITTING WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER**

11 **AUTHORITY TO EXPEND REVENUES FOR CON-**  
 12 **VENTION CENTER ACTIVITIES.**

13 (a) PERMITTING EXPENDITURE WITHOUT APPRO-  
 14 PRIATION.—The fourth sentence of section 446 of the Dis-  
 15 trict of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Re-  
 16 organization Act (sec. 47–304, D.C. Code) shall not apply  
 17 with respect to any revenues of the District of Columbia

1 which are attributable to the enactment of title III of the  
2 Washington Convention Center Authority Act of 1994  
3 (D.C. Law 10-188) and which are obligated or expended  
4 for the activities described in subsection (b).

5 (b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—The activities de-  
6 scribed in this paragraph are—

7 (1) the operation and maintenance of the exist-  
8 ing Washington Convention Center; and

9 (2) preconstruction activities with respect to a  
10 new convention center in the District of Columbia,  
11 including land acquisition and the conducting of en-  
12 vironmental impact studies, architecture and design  
13 studies, surveys, and site acquisition.

## 14 **TITLE II—SPORTS ARENA**

### 15 **SEC. 201. PERMITTING DESIGNATED AUTHORITY TO BOR-** 16 **ROW FUNDS FOR PRECONSTRUCTION ACTIVI-** 17 **TIES RELATING TO GALLERY PLACE SPORTS** 18 **ARENA.**

19 (a) PERMITTING BORROWING.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The designated authority  
21 may borrow funds through the issuance of revenue  
22 bonds, notes, or other obligations which are secured  
23 by revenues pledged in accordance with paragraph  
24 (2) to finance, refinance, or reimburse the costs of  
25 arena preconstruction activities described in section

1 204 if the designated authority is granted the au-  
2 thority to borrow funds for such purposes by the  
3 District of Columbia government.

4 (2) REVENUE REQUIRED TO SECURE BORROW-  
5 ING.—The designated authority may borrow funds  
6 under paragraph (1) to finance, refinance, or reim-  
7 burse the costs of arena preconstruction activities  
8 described in section 204 only if such borrowing is se-  
9 cured (in whole or in part) by the pledge of revenues  
10 of the District of Columbia which are attributable to  
11 the sports arena tax imposed as a result of the en-  
12 actment of D.C. Law 10–128 (as amended by the  
13 Arena Tax Amendment Act of 1994 (D.C. Act 10–  
14 315)) and which are transferred by the Mayor of the  
15 District of Columbia to the designated authority  
16 pursuant to section 302(a–1)(3) of the Omnibus  
17 Budget Support Act of 1994 (sec. 47–2752(a–1)(3),  
18 D.C. Code) (as amended by section 2(b) of the  
19 Arena Tax Payment and Use Amendment Act of  
20 1995).

21 (b) TREATMENT OF DEBT CREATED.—Any debt cre-  
22 ated pursuant to subsection (a) shall not—

23 (1) be considered general obligation debt of the  
24 District of Columbia for any purpose, including the  
25 limitation on the annual aggregate limit on debt of

1 the District of Columbia under section 603(b) of the  
2 District of Columbia Self-Government and Govern-  
3 mental Reorganization Act (sec. 47-313(b), D.C.  
4 Code);

5 (2) constitute the lending of the public credit  
6 for private undertakings for purposes of section  
7 602(a)(2) of such Act (sec. 1-233(a)(2), D.C. Code);  
8 or

9 (3) be a pledge of or involve the full faith and  
10 credit of the District of Columbia.

11 (c) DESIGNATED AUTHORITY DEFINED.—The term  
12 “designated authority” means the Redevelopment Land  
13 Agency or such other District of Columbia government  
14 agency or instrumentality designated by the Mayor of the  
15 District of Columbia for purposes of carrying out any  
16 arena preconstruction activities.

17 **SEC. 202. PERMITTING CERTAIN DISTRICT REVENUES TO**  
18 **BE PLEDGED AS SECURITY FOR BORROWING.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The District of Columbia (includ-  
20 ing the designated authority described in section 201(c))  
21 may pledge as security for any borrowing undertaken pur-  
22 suant to section 201(a) any revenues of the District of  
23 Columbia which are attributable to the sports arena tax  
24 imposed as a result of the enactment of D.C. Act 10-128  
25 (as amended by the Arena Tax Amendment Act of 1994

1 (D.C. Law 10-315)), upon the transfer of such revenues  
2 by the Mayor of the District of Columbia to the designated  
3 authority pursuant to section 302(a-1)(3) of the Omnibus  
4 Budget Support Act of 1994 (sec. 47-2752(a-1)(3), D.C.  
5 Code) (as amended by section 2(b) of the Arena Tax Pay-  
6 ment and Use Amendment Act of 1995).

7 (b) EXCLUSION OF PLEDGED REVENUES FROM CAL-  
8 CULATION OF ANNUAL AGGREGATE LIMIT ON DEBT.—  
9 Any revenues pledged as security by the District of Colum-  
10 bia pursuant to subsection (a) shall be excluded from the  
11 determination of the dollar amount equivalent to 14 per-  
12 cent of District revenues under section 603(b)(3)(A) of the  
13 District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental  
14 Reorganization Act (sec. 47-313(b)(3)(A), D.C. Code).

15 **SEC. 203. NO APPROPRIATION NECESSARY FOR ARENA**  
16 **PRECONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.**

17 The fourth sentence of section 446 of the District of  
18 Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganiza-  
19 tion Act (sec. 47-304, D.C. Code) shall not apply with  
20 respect to any of the following obligations or expenditures:

21 (1) Borrowing conducted pursuant to section  
22 201(a).

23 (2) The pledging of revenues as security for  
24 such borrowing pursuant to section 202(a).



1 the construction of the sports arena and related fa-  
2 cilities.

3 (6) The use of environmental, legal, and con-  
4 sulting services (including services to obtain regu-  
5 latory approvals) for the construction of the sports  
6 arena.

7 (7) The financing of administrative and trans-  
8 action costs incurred in borrowing funds pursuant to  
9 section 201(a), including costs incurred in connec-  
10 tion with the issuance, sale, and delivery of bonds,  
11 notes, or other obligations.

12 (8) The financing of other activities of the Dis-  
13 trict of Columbia government associated with the de-  
14 velopment and construction of the sports arena, in-  
15 cluding the reimbursement of the District of Colum-  
16 bia government or others for costs incurred prior to  
17 the date of the enactment of this Act which were re-  
18 lated to the sports arena, so long as the designated  
19 authority determines that such costs are adequately  
20 documented and that the incurring of such costs was  
21 reasonable.

1                   **TITLE III—WAIVER OF**  
2                   **CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW**

3   **SEC. 301. WAIVER OF CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF ARENA**  
4                   **TAX PAYMENT AND USE AMENDMENT ACT OF**  
5                   **1995.**

6           Notwithstanding section 602(c)(1) of the District of  
7   Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganiza-  
8   tion Act, the Arena Tax Payment and Use Amendment  
9   Act of 1995 (D.C. Act 11-115) shall take effect on the  
10   date of the enactment of this Act.

          Passed the House of Representatives August 4,  
1995.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

104TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

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