

# Union Calendar No. 766

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3196

**[Report No. 118-741, Part I]**

To provide for the appointment of the Architect of the Capitol, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2023

Mr. STEIL (for himself and Mr. MORELLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Reported from the Committee on House Administration

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure extended for a period ending not later than December 19, 2024

DECEMBER 19, 2024

Additional sponsors: Mr. LOUDERMILK and Mrs. BICE

DECEMBER 19, 2024

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

# **A BILL**

To provide for the appointment of the Architect of the  
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 “Architect of the Capitol  
5 Appointment Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. APPOINTMENT AND TERM OF SERVICE OF ARCHI-**  
7 **TECT OF THE CAPITOL.**

8        (a) APPOINTMENT.—The Architect of the Capitol  
9 shall be appointed, without regard to political affiliation  
10 and solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties  
11 of the office, upon a majority vote of a congressional com-  
12 mission (referred to in this section as the “commission”)  
13 consisting of the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
14 the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leaders of  
15 the House of Representatives and Senate, the chair and  
16 ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropria-  
17 tions of the House of Representatives, the chairman and  
18 ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropria-  
19 tions of the Senate, the chair and ranking minority mem-  
20 ber of the Committee on House Administration of the  
21 House of Representatives, and the chairman and ranking  
22 minority member of the Committee on Rules and Adminis-  
23 tration of the Senate.

24        (b) TERM OF SERVICE.—The Architect of the Capitol  
25 shall be appointed for a term of 10 years and, upon a

1 majority vote of the members of the commission, may be  
2 reappointed for additional 10-year terms.

3 (c) REMOVAL.—The Architect of the Capitol may be  
4 removed from office at any time upon a majority vote of  
5 the members of the commission.

6 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

7 (1) Section 319 of the Legislative Branch Ap-  
8 propriations Act, 1990 (2 U.S.C. 1801) is repealed.

9 (2) The matter under the heading “FOR THE  
10 CAPITOL:” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF  
11 THE INTERIOR.” of the Act of February 14, 1902  
12 (32 Stat. 19, chapter 17; incorporated in 2 U.S.C.  
13 1811) is amended by striking “, and he shall be ap-  
14 pointed by the President”.

15 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and the amend-  
16 ments made by this section, shall apply with respect to  
17 appointments made on or after the date of enactment of  
18 this Act.

19 **SEC. 3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY ARCHITECT OF THE**  
20 **CAPITOL; VACANCY IN ARCHITECT OR DEP-**  
21 **UTY ARCHITECT.**

22 Section 1203 of title I of division H of the Consoli-  
23 dated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (2 U.S.C. 1805)  
24 is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) by inserting “(in this section referred  
2 to as the ‘Architect’)” after “The Architect of  
3 the Capitol”; and

4 (B) by inserting “(in this section referred  
5 to as the ‘Deputy Architect’)” after “Deputy  
6 Architect of the Capitol”;

7 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
8 section (c);

9 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
10 lowing:

11 “(b) DEADLINE.—The Architect shall appoint a Dep-  
12 uty Architect under subsection (a) not later than 120 days  
13 after—

14 “(1) the date on which the Architect is ap-  
15 pointed under section 2 of the Architect of the Cap-  
16 itol Appointment Act of 2023, if there is no Deputy  
17 Architect on the date of the appointment; or

18 “(2) the date on which a vacancy arises in the  
19 office of the Deputy Architect.”;

20 (4) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by  
21 striking “of the Capitol” each place it appears; and

22 (5) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(d) FAILURE TO APPOINT.—If the Architect does  
24 not appoint a Deputy Architect on or before the applicable  
25 date specified in subsection (b), the congressional commis-

1 sion described in section 2(a) of the Architect of the Cap-  
2 itol Appointment Act of 2023 shall appoint the Deputy  
3 Architect by a majority vote of the members of the com-  
4 mission.

5 “(e) NOTIFICATION.—If the position of Deputy Ar-  
6 chitect becomes vacant, the Architect shall immediately  
7 notify the members of the congressional commission de-  
8 scribed in section 2(a) of the Architect of the Capitol Ap-  
9 pointment Act of 2023.”.

10 **SEC. 4. DEPUTY ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL TO SERVE AS**  
11 **ACTING IN CASE OF ABSENCE, DISABILITY,**  
12 **OR VACANCY.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Architect of the Cap-  
14 itol (in this section referred to as the “Deputy Architect”)  
15 shall act as Architect of the Capitol (in this section re-  
16 ferred to as the “Architect”) if the Architect is absent or  
17 disabled or there is no Architect.

18 (b) ABSENCE, DISABILITY, OR VACANCY IN OFFICE  
19 OF DEPUTY ARCHITECT.—For purposes of subsection (a),  
20 if the Deputy Architect is also absent or disabled or there  
21 is no Deputy Architect, the congressional commission de-  
22 scribed in section 2(a) shall designate, by a majority vote  
23 of the members of the commission, an individual to serve  
24 as acting Architect until—

1           (1) the end of the absence or disability of the  
2           Architect or the Deputy Architect; or

3           (2) in the case of vacancies in both positions,  
4           an Architect has been appointed under section 2(a)  
5           of this Act.

6           (c) AUTHORITY.—An officer serving as acting Archi-  
7           tect under subsection (a) or (b) shall perform all the duties  
8           and exercise all the authorities of the Architect, including  
9           the authority to delegate the duties and authorities of the  
10          Architect in accordance with the matter under the heading  
11          “OFFICE OF THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL” under  
12          the heading “ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL” of the  
13          Legislative Appropriation Act, 1956 (2 U.S.C. 1803).

14          (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The matter under  
15          the heading “SALARIES” under the heading “OFFICE OF  
16          THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL” under the heading  
17          “ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL” of the Legislative  
18          Branch Appropriation Act, 1971 (2 U.S.C. 1804) is  
19          amended by striking “: *Provided*,” and all that follows  
20          through “no Architect”.

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DECEMBER 19, 2024

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