

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8455

To repeal an Act entitled “An Act to retrocede the county of Alexandria, in the District of Columbia, to the State of Virginia,” and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 2026

Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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

A BILL

To repeal an Act entitled “An Act to retrocede the county of Alexandria, in the District of Columbia, to the State of Virginia,” 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 “Make DC Square
5 Again Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Article I, section 8, clause 17 of the Con-
2 stitution known as the Enclave Clause enumerates
3 the power of the Federal Government to “exercise
4 exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over such
5 District (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by
6 cession of particular States, and the acceptance of
7 Congress, become the seat of government of the
8 United States”.

9 (2) The Constitution does not enumerate au-
10 thority for the Federal Government to retrocede por-
11 tions of such a district back to states.

12 (3) An Act of Congress approved July 16,
13 1790, ten miles square of territory was accepted
14 from the States of Maryland and Virginia to serve
15 the permanent seat of government subsequently
16 being known as the District of Columbia.

17 (4) Act of Congress approved on July 9, 1846,
18 the portion of the District of Columbia lying south
19 of the Potomac River was ceded back to the State
20 of Virginia in violation of the intent and meaning of
21 the Constitution of the United States.

22 (5) Senator Benjamin Wade of Ohio introduced
23 S. 280 to repeal the 1846 Act of retrocession on
24 April 23, 1866, during the 1st Session of the 39th
25 Congress.

1 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF RETROCESSION AND RESTORATION OF**
2 **TERRITORY.**

3 (a) REPEAL.—The Act of July 9, 1846 (9 Stat. 35,
4 Chapter 35), entitled “An Act to Retrocede the County
5 of Alexandria, in the District of Columbia, to the State
6 of Virginia”, is repealed.

7 (b) RESTORATION.—The territory retroceded under
8 the Act repealed by subsection (a), consisting of the area
9 now comprising Arlington County, Virginia, and the inde-
10 pendent City of Alexandria, Virginia, is restored to, and
11 shall constitute part of, the District of Columbia.

12 (c) GOVERNING LAW.—Effective on the date of en-
13 actment of this Act, the laws of the District of Columbia
14 shall apply to the territory restored under subsection (b),
15 and the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia shall cease
16 to apply to such territory, except that—

17 (1) all rights, titles, and interests in property
18 held by any person on such date shall remain undis-
19 turbed; and

20 (2) any civil or criminal proceeding pending in
21 a court of the Commonwealth of Virginia on such
22 date arising in such territory may be concluded in
23 that court as if this Act had not been enacted.

1 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect on
2 the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act.

