

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9689

To protect publicly commissioned art, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2026

Ms. TITUS (for herself and Mr. DOGGETT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 protect publicly commissioned art, 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 “Protecting Resources
5 and Ensuring Stewardship of Enduring Records of Visual
6 Expression Act” or the “PRESERVE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. PROTECTING PUBLICLY COMMISSIONED ART.**

8 (a) COVERED ART DESIGNATION.—

9 (1) DETERMINATION REQUIRED BY GSA.—Not
10 later than 30 days after the date on which the Ad-

1 administrator determines excess property that is Fed-
2 eral real property is surplus property, the Adminis-
3 trator shall determine whether the surplus property
4 contains covered art.

5 (2) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than
6 60 days after the Administrator determines that sur-
7 plus property is covered surplus property, the Ad-
8 ministrator shall notify the appropriate congres-
9 sional committees and each Member of Congress
10 that represents the area where the surplus property
11 is located of such designation.

12 (b) PRESERVATION COMMITTEE.—

13 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days
14 before the initiation of the first demolition, transfer,
15 or disposal of a covered surplus property, the Ad-
16 ministrator shall establish a Preservation Committee
17 for such covered surplus property.

18 (2) MEMBER.—There shall be at least 3 and
19 not more than 6 members of the Preservation Com-
20 mittee as follows:

21 (A) At least one member shall be a GSA
22 Fine Arts Program employee who is a career
23 employee in the civil service.

24 (B) At least two members from different
25 categories as follows:

1 (i) An expert in art conservation or
2 art history in either the time period or me-
3 dium of the covered art.

4 (ii) Any GSA employee that is respon-
5 sible for preserving the artwork in the
6 Federal building, such as an Historic Pres-
7 ervation Program employee.

8 (iii) Any other individual the Adminis-
9 trator determines has important historical
10 knowledge about the creation or preserva-
11 tion of the covered artwork.

12 (3) GSA PLAN OR ALTERNATIVES REQUIRED TO
13 BE SUBMITTED.—On the date on which the Preser-
14 vation Committee is established, the Administrator
15 shall provide the Preservation Committee with—

16 (A) a proposed plan of action for the sale,
17 transfer, or demolition of the property; or

18 (B) a range of alternatives the Adminis-
19 trator is considering for the covered surplus
20 property.

21 (4) PRESERVATION PLAN.—

22 (A) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Not later than
23 90 days after the date on which the Preserva-
24 tion Committee is established, the Preservation
25 Committee shall submit to the Administrator,

1 the appropriate congressional committees, and
2 each Member of Congress that represents the
3 area where the surplus property is located a
4 preservation plan for covered art within the sur-
5 plus properties to preserve the covered artwork
6 to the maximum extent possible, including
7 through a preservation covenant in an outlease
8 agreement and sale terms, or moving covered
9 artwork to another facility or museum.

10 (B) AVAILABILITY OF PRESERVATION
11 PLAN ON GSA WEBSITE.—Not later than 30
12 days after the date on which the Administrator
13 receives the preservation plan pursuant to sub-
14 paragraph (A), the Administrator shall make
15 the plan publicly available on the GSA website
16 for not less than 90 days.

17 (C) REPORT REQUIRED FOR MISSED DEAD-
18 LINE.—If the Preservation Committee does not
19 meet the deadline under subparagraph (A), the
20 Committee shall submit to Congress and the
21 Administrator a report explaining why the
22 deadline was missed.

23 (5) TRANSFER OF PROPERTY.—At the rec-
24 ommendation of the Preservation Committee, the
25 Administrator may place the covered art on long-

1 term loan to a museum or nonprofit organization, if
2 the agreement to transfer includes the requirements
3 described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of para-
4 graph (4).

5 (6) CONDITION FOR REAL PROPERTY DIS-
6 POSAL.—The Administrator may not dispose of, de-
7 molish, or outlease any covered surplus property un-
8 less—

9 (A) the Administrator has established a
10 Preservation Committee for such covered sur-
11 plus property and the Preservation Committee
12 has finished the preservation plan for any cov-
13 ered art in the property, in accordance with
14 paragraph (4); and

15 (B) the Administrator certifies to the ap-
16 propriate congressional committees that the
17 GSA is implementing such preservation plan
18 and the covered artwork in such covered sur-
19 plus property will remain publicly accessible
20 under any future owners or tenants of the prop-
21 erty.

22 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
24 trator” means the Administrator of General Serv-
25 ices.

1 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Transportation and
5 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

6 (B) the Committee on Oversight and Gov-
7 ernment Reform of the House of Representa-
8 tives; and

9 (C) the Committee on Environment and
10 Public Works of the Senate.

11 (3) CIVIL SERVICE.—The term “civil service”
12 has the meaning given that term in section 2101 of
13 title 5, United States Code.

14 (4) COVERED ART.—The term “covered art”
15 means artwork that—

16 (A) is owned by the Federal Government;
17 and

18 (B) is or was, within the preceding 5
19 years, managed by the General Services Admin-
20 istration Fine Arts Program, including any
21 work commissioned using taxpayer funds under
22 a Federal program established as part of the
23 New Deal of President Franklin D. Roosevelt
24 or commissioned through the GSA Art in Archi-
25 tecture program.

1 (5) COVERED SURPLUS PROPERTY.—The term
2 “covered surplus property” means surplus property
3 the Administrator determines contains covered art
4 under subsection (a).

5 (6) EXCESS PROPERTY; SURPLUS PROPERTY.—
6 The terms “excess property” and “surplus property”
7 have the meaning given those terms in section 102
8 of title 40, United States Code.

9 (7) GSA.—The term “GSA” means the General
10 Services Administration.

11 (8) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
12 “nonprofit organization” means an organization that
13 is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Rev-
14 enue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under
15 section 501(a) of such Code.

16 (9) PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE.—The term “pub-
17 licly accessible” means accessible to the general pub-
18 lic on a regular and predictable basis.

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