

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3705

To provide for the creation of a congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial of the United States, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 27, 2026

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was considered, read the third time, and passed

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## A BILL

To provide for the creation of a congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial of the United States, 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 “Semiquincentennial  
5 Congressional Time Capsule Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CONGRESSIONAL TIME CAP-**  
7 **SULE.**

8 (a) CREATION BY ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL.—  
9 The Architect of the Capitol shall create a congressional

1 time capsule, to be known as the “Semiquincentennial  
2 Congressional Time Capsule” (in this Act referred to as  
3 the “Time Capsule”).

4 (b) CONTENTS.—

5 (1) DETERMINATION BY CONGRESSIONAL LEAD-  
6 ERSHIP.—The Office of the Speaker of the House of  
7 Representatives, Office of the Minority Leader of the  
8 House of Representatives, Office of the Majority  
9 Leader of the Senate, and Office of the Minority  
10 Leader of the Senate shall jointly determine the con-  
11 tents of the Time Capsule, taking into account the  
12 requirements of paragraph (2).

13 (2) CONTENTS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The contents of the  
15 Time Capsule shall include—

16 (i) a single, joint letter from the of-  
17 fices described in paragraph (1); and

18 (ii) any other item that the offices de-  
19 scribed in paragraph (1) jointly determine  
20 appropriate.

21 (B) LIMITATIONS.—Any item included in  
22 the Time Capsule under subparagraph (A)—

23 (i) shall be made of materials that  
24 pose a low risk of degrading, such as metal  
25 or archival paper; and

1 (ii) shall not be made of any organic  
2 or inorganic material that poses a high  
3 risk of degrading.

4 (3) SIZE.—The Time Capsule shall be not more  
5 than 50 inches wide, 32 inches deep, and 48 inches  
6 high.

7 (4) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this sub-  
8 section, the offices described in paragraph (1) may  
9 consult with the Architect of the Capitol, the Sec-  
10 retary of the Smithsonian Institution, and such  
11 other entities of the Federal Government as the of-  
12 fices consider appropriate.

13 (c) DUTIES OF ARCHITECT.—The Architect of the  
14 Capitol shall—

15 (1) prepare the Time Capsule to be sealed and  
16 buried in the Capitol Visitor Center, at a location  
17 specified by the Architect, with the approval of the  
18 Committee on Rules and Administration of the Sen-  
19 ate and the Committee on House Administration of  
20 the House of Representatives, on or before July 4th,  
21 2026, at a time which would permit individuals at-  
22 tending this event to also attend the burial of a time  
23 capsule in Independence Mall in Philadelphia, Penn-  
24 sylvania, under section 7(f)(1) of the United States

1       Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 (36  
2       U.S.C. 101 note prec.); and

3           (2) install a plaque to provide such information  
4       about the Time Capsule as the Architect, with the  
5       approval of the Committee on Rules and Administra-  
6       tion of the Senate and the Committee on House Ad-  
7       ministration of the House of Representatives, con-  
8       siders appropriate.

9       (d) UNSEALING.—The Time Capsule shall be sealed  
10   until July 4th, 2276, on which date the Speaker of the  
11   House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the  
12   Senate shall present the Time Capsule to the 244th Con-  
13   gress, and such Congress shall determine how the contents  
14   within should be preserved or used.

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