

MAKE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SAFE AND  
BEAUTIFUL ACT OF 2026

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JANUARY 14, 2026.—Ordered to be printed  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mr. WESTERMAN, from the Committee on Natural Resources,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

DISSENTING VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 5103]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 5103) to establish a program to Beautify the District of Columbia and establish the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Commission, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Make the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Act of 2026”.

**SEC. 2. PROGRAM TO BEAUTIFY DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter the “Secretary”) shall develop a program to beautify the District of Columbia (hereinafter the “Program”).

(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary, when establishing the Program, shall consult with each of the following:

- (A) The Attorney General.
- (B) The Secretary of Transportation.
- (C) The Mayor of the District of Columbia.
- (D) The United States Attorney for the District of Columbia.
- (E) The Administrator of General Services.

- (F) The heads of such other Federal departments and agencies and District of Columbia officials as the Secretary deems appropriate.
- (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Program is to establish a plan for Federal and local officials to—
- (1) coordinate, and maintain, the cleanliness, of Federal and District of Columbia facilities, monuments, land, public spaces, sidewalks, parks, highways, roads, transit systems, and other commonly visited areas within the District of Columbia, including through the removal of graffiti;
  - (2) restore Federal public monuments, memorials, statues, markers, and similar properties that have been damaged or defaced or inappropriately removed or changed; and
  - (3) encourage private-sector participation in the efforts of the Program.
- (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate that includes a summary of the progress made toward achieving the purpose of the Program as described in subsection (b).
- (d) SUNSET.—This section, and the Program established by this section, shall terminate on January 2, 2029.

**SEC. 3. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SAFE AND BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION.**

- (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the executive branch a District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Commission (hereafter the “Commission”).
- (b) MEMBERSHIP.—
- (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be comprised of representatives of each of the following entities:
    - (A) The Department of the Interior.
    - (B) The Department of Transportation.
    - (C) The Department of Homeland Security.
    - (D) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.
    - (E) The United States Marshals Service.
    - (F) The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.
    - (G) The United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia.
    - (H) The United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Maryland.
    - (I) The United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Virginia.
    - (J) Such other entities of the Federal Government as may be determined by the Chair of the Commission.
  - (2) DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this section (or, in the case of an entity described in subsection (b)(1)(J), not later than 45 days after the Chair of the Commission designates the entity), the head of each entity described in subsection (b)(1) shall designate a representative of that entity to serve as the representative of the entity on the Commission.
- (c) CHAIR.—
- (1) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the President shall designate a senior level official from the Executive Office of the President to serve as the Chair of the Commission.
  - (2) FUNCTIONS.—The Chair shall perform functions that include the following:
    - (A) Developing a schedule of meetings for the Commission.
    - (B) Designating entities who shall be represented on the Commission under subsection (b)(1)(J).
    - (C) In consultation with the members of the Commission, developing a charter for the Commission and, not later than 7 days after the date on which the charter is completed, submitting the charter to the appropriate committees of Congress.
- (d) FUNCTIONS AND AUTHORITIES.—
- (1) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Commission are to recommend actions, and review the effectiveness of such actions, with respect to the following:
    - (A) Developing and encouraging the implementation of policies which will direct the maximum enforcement of Federal immigration law within the District of Columbia, including policies to encourage the redirection of available Federal, State, or local law enforcement resources to apprehend and deport illegal aliens.
    - (B) Monitoring the District of Columbia’s sanctuary-city status and compliance with the enforcement of Federal immigration law.

(C) Facilitating the prompt and complete accreditation of the District of Columbia's forensic crime laboratory.

(D) In collaboration with its leadership and union, ensuring that the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia is provided with assistance to facilitate the recruitment, retention, and capabilities of its officers and facilitating the provision of Federal personnel, resources, and expertise to reduce crime.

(E) Collaborating with appropriate local government entities to provide assistance to increase the speed and lower the cost of processing concealed carry license requests in the District of Columbia.

(F) Reviewing and, as appropriate, recommending revisions to Federal prosecutorial policies on pretrial detention of criminal defendants to ensure that individuals who pose a genuine threat to public safety are detained to the maximum extent permitted by law.

(G) Collaborating with appropriate local government entities to provide assistance to end fare evasion and other crime within the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority system.

(H) Facilitating the deployment of a more robust Federal law enforcement presence, and in coordination with local law enforcement agencies, facilitating the deployment of a more robust local law enforcement presence (as appropriate) within the District of Columbia, including the National Mall and Memorial Parks, museums, monuments, Lafayette Park, Union Station, Rock Creek Park, Anacostia Park, the George Washington Memorial Parkway, the Suitland Parkway, and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

(2) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES.—The Commission may, to the extent permitted by law, request operational assistance from and coordinate with Federal and local officials as appropriate, including the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the United States Park Police, and the Amtrak Police.

(e) REPORT.—The Commission shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress which includes a summary of the functions and authorities carried out pursuant to subsection (d), and shall include in the report such recommendations for legislation as the Commission considers appropriate.

(f) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

(g) SUNSET.—This section, and the Commission established by this section, shall terminate on January 2, 2029.

#### PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 5103 is to establish a program to Beautify the District of Columbia and establish the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Commission.

#### BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Pierre Charles L'Enfant's renowned vision for Washington, D.C. centered on creating a grand capital that would reflect the democratic values of the new republic and feature inspiring buildings, a National Mall, wide avenues, and public squares.<sup>1</sup> D.C., was created to be both the permanent seat of our federal government and to serve as a powerful symbol of national pride and strength. For more than 230 years, D.C. has been our nation's capital, home to iconic landmarks and monuments that commemorate national triumphs, promote foundational ideals, and portray serious challenges

<sup>1</sup>“Noted as one of the most influential architects and city planners in American history, Pierre “Peter” Charles L'Enfant is most famous for designing the nation's capital, Washington, D.C.” Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, Pierre L'Enfant. In George Washington's Mount Vernon: Digital Encyclopedia, <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/pierre-lenfant>. Kenneth R. Fletcher, “A Brief History of Pierre L'Enfant and Washington D.C.”, Smithsonian Magazine, April 30, 2008, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/a-brief-history-of-pierre-lenfant-and-washington-dc-39487784/>.

and struggles overcome. It is a place that should make all Americans proud and in which every citizen should feel safe.

Sadly, D.C.'s crime rate has skyrocketed in recent years, making it one of the most dangerous and deadly cities in America. In 2023, under unified Democratic local leadership, D.C. experienced 274 homicides, its deadliest year in two decades.<sup>2</sup> In fact, D.C.'s murder rate rose more than 35 percent from 2022 to 2023, while the national homicide rate decreased by 15 percent over the same period.<sup>3</sup> With the fifth-highest murder rate among the nation's large cities, D.C. is ten times deadlier than New York City, despite having less than a tenth of New York City's population.<sup>4</sup> The D.C. homicide rate is more than just a statistic; it represents an omnipresent threat to all the city's residents:

“The 274 confirmed victims ranged from infants to octogenarians. They were killed in homes, in Metro stations and in motor vehicles; they were killed in alleys, in school zones and in public parks. They were slain on streets by acquaintances and strangers and in the crossfire of warring neighborhood crews, in double shootings and triple shootings. They died in the dark and the dawn and under the midday sun in all parts of Washington, from its poorest precincts to its busiest commercial and nightlife areas.”<sup>5</sup>

The increasing murder rate is only part of a broader and disturbing trend of rising violent crime in the nation's capital. In 2024, there were 29,348 crimes reported in D.C., including 5,139 vehicle thefts, 3,469 violent offenses, 2,113 robberies, and 1,026 assaults with a deadly weapon.<sup>6</sup> Juvenile arrests have also risen steadily each year since 2020, and the nearly 200 juveniles that were arrested in 2024 “had prior violent crime arrests.”<sup>7</sup> As concerning as these crime statistics are, the true incidence of crime in D.C. is likely even higher. In fact, the D.C. Police suspended a top official in July 2025 for falsifying crime data “to make it appear [that] violent crime ha[d] fallen considerably compared to last year.”<sup>8</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Emma Davies, Jasmine Hilton, and Peter Hermann, “2023 Was District's Deadliest Year in More Than Two Decades: The City Recorded 40 Homicides per 100,000 Residents, with Victims in Every Ward, from Babies to the Elderly,” *The Washington Post*, January 1, 2024, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/interactive/2024/dc-crime-homicide-victims-shooting-violence/>.

<sup>3</sup>Eric Levenson & Mark Morales, “Homicides dropped by over 10% in America's biggest cities in 2023,” *CNN*, January 5, 2024, <https://www.cnn.com/2024/01/04/us/homicide-crime-declines-cities-2023/index.html>.

<sup>4</sup>“NYPD Announces Citywide Crime Statistics for December 2023,” *New York City Police Department*, January 4, 2024, <https://www.nyc.gov/site/nypd/news/p00098/nypd-december-2023-end-of-year-citywide-crime-statistics>. “NYC Remains Largest U.S. City, Census Data Shows,” *Fox 5 New York*, 27 May 2024, <https://www.fox5ny.com/news/nyc-largest-us-cities-ranked-census-data>. “New Census Data Shows DC's Population Surpasses 700,000 for the First Time in Five Years,” *Government of the District of Columbia, Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser*, December 19, 2024, [https://mayor.dc.gov/release/new-census-data-shows-dc%E2%80%99s-population-surpasses-700000-first-time-five-years?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com#:~:text=\(Washington%2C%20DC\)%20%E2%80%93%20Today%2C%20the%20U.S.%20Census,bringing%20the%20city's%20population%20to%20702%2C250%20residents](https://mayor.dc.gov/release/new-census-data-shows-dc%E2%80%99s-population-surpasses-700000-first-time-five-years?utm_source=chatgpt.com#:~:text=(Washington%2C%20DC)%20%E2%80%93%20Today%2C%20the%20U.S.%20Census,bringing%20the%20city's%20population%20to%20702%2C250%20residents).

<sup>5</sup>*Id.*

<sup>6</sup>“District Crime Data at a Glance,” *Metropolitan Police*, <https://mpdc.dc.gov/dailycrime>.

<sup>7</sup>Mark Segraves, “DC police unit to focus on stopping juvenile crimes before they happen,” *NBC Washington*, April 3, 2025, <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/dc-police-unit-to-focus-on-stopping-juvenile-crimes-before-they-happen/3883054>.

<sup>8</sup>*NBC Washington*, “DC police commander suspended, accused of changing crime statistics,” July 18, 2025, <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/dc-police-commander-suspended-crime-statistics/3959566/>.

Rising crime has included increased desecration of D.C.’s public spaces, a development that disproportionately affects federal lands. Almost a quarter of D.C. consists of parks or open space, with the National Park Service (NPS) managing approximately 90 percent, or roughly 6,700 acres, of that area.<sup>9</sup> Homeless encampments in D.C. have increasingly overrun NPS-managed parks and green spaces.<sup>10</sup> These locations—dedicated for public enjoyment and recreation—have become havens for drug abuse, mental illness, vandalism, and violent incidents.<sup>11</sup> Unsanitary conditions and waste accumulation also pose public health risks, including the spread of disease. NPS has even had to clear these encampments to “ensure the safety” of nearby elementary school students and residents.<sup>12</sup>

NPS-managed land and monuments have also suffered from violent and destructive rioting. In recent years, NPS has been forced to remove explicit, derogatory, and offensive graffiti from the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, World War II Memorial, and D.C. War Memorial.<sup>13</sup> In 2024, D.C. witnessed a series of pro-Hamas riots that prompted widespread graffiti and other acts of vandalism at federal buildings, monuments, and statues.<sup>14</sup> The most destructive actions occurred in Columbus Circle, outside Union Station, which NPS manages.<sup>15</sup> During these riots, the Christopher Columbus Memorial Fountain and the American Legion Freedom Bell were heavily vandalized with pro-Hamas and other derogatory graffiti.<sup>16</sup> American flags were also torn down, burned, and replaced by Palestinian flags, and violent protestors assaulted several U.S. Park Police officers.<sup>17</sup>

The spike in unsafe and unsanitary conditions in D.C. is directly attributable to the radical, soft-on-crime policies that have been

<sup>9</sup>National Capital Planning Commission, “About Washington’s Parks and Open Space”, [https://www.ncpc.gov/docs/CapitalSpace\\_Washingtons\\_Parks\\_and\\_Open\\_Space.pdf](https://www.ncpc.gov/docs/CapitalSpace_Washingtons_Parks_and_Open_Space.pdf).

<sup>10</sup>Kriston Capps, “In Trump’s DC Crackdown, National Park Service Leads Homeless Sweeps”, Bloomberg, August 22, 2025, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-08-22/dc-crime-crackdown-deputizes-national-park-service-in-homeless-sweeps>.

<sup>11</sup>Nick Iannelli, “Homeless encampments being cleared from Northwest DC parks due to reports of drugs, violence,” WTOP News, August 17, 2021, <https://wtop.com/dc/2021/08/dc-homeless-encampments-being-cleared-due-to-reports-of-drugs-violence/>.

<sup>12</sup>Statement of Councilmember Brooke Pinto, <https://x.com/CMBrookePinto/status/1426550804371083265>. Councilmember Pinto is a Democrat and the Chairwoman of the Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety of the D.C. Council.

<sup>13</sup>“National Park Service Removing Graffiti at Lincoln Memorial,” National Park Service, August 15, 2017, <https://www.nps.gov/nama/learn/news/lincoln-vandalism.htm>. “National Park Service Removing Graffiti at Four Memorials Along the National Mall,” National Park Service, February 21, 2017, <https://www.nps.gov/nama/learn/news/graffiti-on-national-mall.htm>. “National Park Service Removing Graffiti at Four Memorials Along the National Mall,” ABCNews7, September 20, 2022, <https://wjla.com/news/local/washington-monument-red-paint-defaced-with-graphic-message-vandalized-vandalism-graffiti-spray-national-mall-dc-park-police-crime-district-lincoln-washington>. NationalMallNPS X Account, May 31, 2020, <https://x.com/NationalMallNPS/status/1267124873085804544>.

<sup>14</sup>Andrea Swalec, “What happened at Union Station was vile: DC protest vandalism, flag burning condemned”, NBC Washington, July 25, 2024, <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/after-dc-pro-palestinian-protests-crews-clean-spray-paint-and-replace-american-flag/3674796/>.

<sup>15</sup>For more information about the Committee’s investigation into these riots, please see: [https://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/hearing\\_memo\\_-\\_sub\\_on\\_oi\\_ov\\_hrg\\_on\\_hamas\\_protst\\_12.10.24.pdf](https://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/hearing_memo_-_sub_on_oi_ov_hrg_on_hamas_protst_12.10.24.pdf).

<sup>16</sup>*Id.*

<sup>17</sup>*Id.* Josh Christenson “‘Badly understaffed’ Park Police assaulted by ‘mob of thousands,’ pelted with poop at pro-Hamas riot in DC: union chief,” New York Post, July 25, 2024, <https://nypost.com/2024/07/25/us-news/park-police-badly-understaffed-officers-pelted-with-feces-at-pro-hamas-riot-in-dc-union-chief-says/>.

championed under unified Democratic control.<sup>18</sup> In fiscal year 2022, one year before D.C.’s major spike in homicides, the D.C. Council cut the Metropolitan Police Department’s budget by \$34.3 million.<sup>19</sup> Under the Biden administration, federal prosecutors declined to prosecute two-thirds of criminals arrested in D.C., a fact that even the left-leaning Washington Post labeled “a startling statistic.”<sup>20</sup> Federal prosecutors from both political parties have blamed increased crime on the D.C. Council’s soft-on-crime policies, which, among other things, allow offenders to have their criminal records sealed and reduce sentences for crimes committed by perpetrators under the age of 25.<sup>21</sup> According to these prosecutors, “people released under [D.C.’s] laws have reoffended, sometimes with deadly consequences.”<sup>22</sup> The D.C. Council was so radical in its attempts to turn D.C. into a safe haven for violent criminals that Congress overwhelmingly overturned the council’s weakening of the criminal code in 2023.<sup>23</sup> Among other flaws, those proposed revisions sought to reduce maximum sentences for many violent crimes and eliminate mandatory minimum sentences for all crimes, except first-degree murder.<sup>24</sup> Although a portion of these misguided measures have been overturned, many soft-on-crime policies persist, leaving “[i]nnocent people in neighborhoods across the city” vulnerable to “robberies, carjackings, and seemingly random acts of violence.”<sup>25</sup>

To fix the dire situation in our nation’s capital, President Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 14252, “Making the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful” on March 27, 2025.<sup>26</sup> This EO launched a coordinated effort to restore safety, dignity, and aesthetic appeal to our nation’s capital. Through EO 14252, the Trump administration is working to restore law and order, beauty, and national pride in our nation’s capital. Furthering these efforts, President Trump also issued EO 14333, “Declaring a Crime Emergency in the District of Columbia,” on August 11, 2025, which deployed 800 National Guard members to crime hotspots throughout the city.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>18</sup>Zack Smith, “A Week without Murder: Trump’s Crackdown Restores Safety to Washington, D.C.” The Heritage Foundation, August 28, 2025, <https://www.heritage.org/crime-and-justice/commentary/week-without-murder-trumps-crackdown-restores-safety-washington-dc>.

<sup>19</sup>“DC Fiscal Policy Institute: Visualizing the DC Police Budget,” D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute, <https://www.tableau.com/foundation/data-equity/equitable-justice/DC-police-budget#:~:text=On%20August%2010%2C%202021%2C%20the,policing%20and%20to%20other%20needs.>

<sup>20</sup>See Keith L. Alexander, “D.C. U.S. attorney declined to prosecute 67% of those arrested. Here’s why,” March 29, 2023, <https://www.congress.gov/118/meeting/house/115608/documents/HHRG-118-GO00-20230329-SD006.pdf>.

<sup>21</sup>Jenny Gathright & Meagan Flynn, “Pirro takes aim at D.C.’s crime laws, calls them ‘absurd,’” The Washington Post, August 7, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/08/07/pirro-dc-crime-laws/>.

<sup>22</sup>*Id.*

<sup>23</sup>Rose Horowitz, “Biden signs measure to repeal controversial D.C. crime bill,” NBC News, March 21, 2023, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/joe-biden/biden-signs-measure-repeal-controversial-dc-crime-bill-rcna75875>.

<sup>24</sup>Zack Smith & Charles Stimson, “The D.C. City Council Failed at Criminal Justice Reform—Congress Must Fix It,” The Heritage Foundation, July 12, 2023, <https://www.heritage.org/crime-and-justice/report/the-dc-city-council-failed-criminal-justice-reform-congress-must-fix-it>.

<sup>25</sup>Letter from D.C. Trade Associations to Mayor Bowser and the D.C. Council, February 29, 2024, <https://www.investmentcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/DC-Trade-Association-Letter-to-Mayor-and-City-Council-02.29.2024-.pdf>.

<sup>26</sup>Executive Office of the President, Executive Order 14252, March 27, 2025, “Make the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful” <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/03/2025-05837/making-the-district-of-columbia-safe-and-beautiful>.

<sup>27</sup>Executive Office of the President, Executive Order 14333, August 11, 2025, “Declaring a Crime Emergency in the District of Columbia”, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/08/14/2025-15550/declaring-a-crime-emergency-in-the-district-of-columbia>.

President Trump’s decisive actions have had clear success in cracking down on crime in D.C. Just one week after the president issued EO 14333, violent crime dropped 58 percent, carjackings were down 60 percent, and there were 56 percent fewer robberies.<sup>28</sup> In one 12-day stretch, D.C. did not record a single homicide, an unfortunately rare streak.<sup>29</sup> EO 14333 also mobilized U.S. Park Police officers to support public safety, which helped alleviate an ongoing police shortage in D.C. of roughly 800 officers.<sup>30</sup> Through these unified efforts, law enforcement officers have led the federal effort to clear homeless encampments, carrying out nearly 100 removals since EO 14252 was issued.<sup>31</sup> Law enforcement officers, including the Park Police, have also arrested dangerous criminals with prior felony convictions, seized hundreds of illegal firearms, and confiscated dangerous drugs like fentanyl and crack cocaine while implementing the President’s EO this year.<sup>32</sup>

H.R. 5103 builds on President Trump’s EO 14252 by codifying and expanding the EO’s key provisions to create a lasting framework for federal and local cooperation in D.C. This legislation tasks the Department of the Interior with the development and implementation of a program to beautify D.C. through the removal of graffiti, as well as the restoration of monuments, fountains, memorials and public areas. H.R. 5103 also establishes a D.C. Safe and Beautiful Commission to coordinate across federal agencies and D.C., Virginia, and Maryland to identify actions needed to ensure full enforcement of federal, local, immigration, and criminal laws within D.C. The U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which also received a referral on this bill, favorably reported the legislation out of committee on September 10, 2025.<sup>33</sup> This legislation will restore law and order, enhance public safety, and revive the beauty of our nation’s capital, thus recapturing L’Enfant’s original vision.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 5103 was introduced on September 3, 2025, by Representative John McGuire (R–VA). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands. The bill was also referred to the Com-

<sup>28</sup> Melanie Ahwick & Sam Kosmas, “Violent crime down 58% in DC amid federal crackdown, JTF DC says”, Fox 5 Washington DC, August 28, 2025, <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/violent-crime-down-58-dc-amid-federal-crackdown-jtf-dc-says>.

<sup>29</sup> Sophie Rosenthal, “Man killed in Southeast DC, ending 12-day stretch with no homicides amid federal surge”, WUSA 9, August 26, 2025, <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/crime/homicide-free-streak-ends-dc-anacostia-road-southeast-shooting-death/65-edcb21b7-b91c-49e7-95163f7cd22c139b>.

<sup>30</sup> Homa Bash, “Police Union president raises concerns about MPD staffing crisis”, Fox 5 Washington DC, May 27, 2025, <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/police-union-president-says-mpd-is-facing-staffing-crisis>.

<sup>31</sup> Diana Nerozzi & David Propper, “75 homeless camps in DC cleared by US Park Police since Trump’s ‘Safe and Beautiful’ executive order”, New York Post, August 15, 2025, <https://nypost.com/2025/08/15/us-news/75-homeless-camps-in-dc-cleared-by-us-park-police-since-trumps-safe-and-beautiful-executive-order/>.

<sup>32</sup> Christenson, Josh, “Feds in DC arrest eight, seize stolen guns and drugs as Trump’s law enforcement crackdown takes shape”, NY Post, August 8, 2025, <https://nypost.com/2025/08/08/us-news/feds-in-dc-arrest-eight-seize-stolen-guns-and-drugs-trumps-law-enforcement-crackdown-takes-aim-at-nations-capitol/>. U.S. Park Police, <https://www.facebook.com/USParkPolice/posts/last-night-uspp-officers-took-another-illegal-firearm-off-the-streets-of-washing/1215071967333888/>.

<sup>33</sup> “Markup Wrap Up: Oversight Committee Advances Legislation to Codify President Trump’s Efforts to Make D.C. Safe and Beautiful.” House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, September 11, 2025, [www.oversight.house.gov/release/markup-wrap-up-oversight-committee-advances-legislation-to-codify-president-trumps-efforts-to-make-d-c-safe-and-beautiful](https://www.oversight.house.gov/release/markup-wrap-up-oversight-committee-advances-legislation-to-codify-president-trumps-efforts-to-make-d-c-safe-and-beautiful).

mittee on Oversight and Government Reform. On December 2, 2025, the Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on the bill. On December 17, 2025, the Committee on Natural Resources met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Federal Lands was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5103 by unanimous consent. Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) offered an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute designated Westerman 044 ANS. The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute was agreed to by voice vote. Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-CA) offered an amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute designated Huffman #1. The amendment was withdrawn. Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-CA) offered an amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute designated Huffman #2. The amendment was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 17 yeas to 24 nays, as follows:

**Committee on Natural Resources**

: U.S. House of Representatives

119th Congress

Date: December 17, 2025

Recorded Vote #: 1

Meeting on / Amendment on: **Huffman #2 amendment to Westerman\_044 Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 5103 (Rep. McGuire), "Make the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Act"**

MEMBERS	Yea	Nay	Pres	MEMBERS	Yea	Nay	Pres
Mr. Westerman, AR, Chairman		X		Mr. Huffman, CA	X		
Mr. Wittman, VA		X		Mr. Neguse, CO			
Mr. McClintock, CA		X		Ms. Leger Fernandez, NM	X		
Mr. Gosar, AZ		X		Ms. Stansbury, NM	X		
Mrs. Radewagen, AS		X		Ms. Hoyle, OR	X		
Mr. LaMalfa, CA		X		Mr. Magaziner, RI	X		
Mr. Webster, FL				Mr. Golden, ME		X	
Mr. Fulcher, ID		X		Mr. Min, CA	X		
Mr. Stauber, MN		X		Ms. Dexter, OR	X		
Mr. Tiffany, WI		X		Mr. Hernández, PR	X		
Ms. Boebert, CO		X		Ms. Randall, WA	X		
Mr. Bentz, OR		X		Ms. Ansari, AZ	X		
Ms. Kiggans, VA		X		Ms. Elfreth, MD	X		
Mr. Hunt, TX		X		Mr. Gray, CA	X		
Mr. Collins, GA		X		Ms. Rivas, CA	X		
Ms. Hageman, WY		X		Ms. Grijalva, AZ	X		
Mr. Amodei, NV				Mrs. Dingell, MI	X		
Mr. Walberg, MI		X		Mr. Soto, FL	X		
Mr. Ezell, MS		X		Ms. Brownley, CA			
Ms. Maloy, UT		X		Ms. Lee, NV	X		
Mr. McDowell, NC		X					
Mr. Crank, CO		X					
Mr. Begich, AK		X					
Mr. Hurd, CO		X					
Mr. Kennedy, UT		X		TOTAL:	17	24	

Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-CA) offered an amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute designated Huffman #10. The amendment was not agreed to by a roll call vote of 18 yeas to 24 nays, as follows:

**Committee on Natural Resources**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
119th Congress

Date: December 17, 2025

Recorded Vote #: 2

Meeting on / Amendment on: **Huffman #10 amendment** to Westerman 044 Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 5103 (Rep. McGuire), *"Make the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Act"*

MEMBERS	Yea	Nay	Pres	MEMBERS	Yea	Nay	Pres
Mr. Westerman, AR, Chairman		X		Mr. Huffman, CA	X		
Mr. Wittman, VA		X		Mr. Neguse, CO			
Mr. McClintock, CA		X		Ms. Leger Fernandez, NM	X		
Mr. Gosar, AZ		X		Ms. Stansbury, NM	X		
Mrs. Radewagen, AS		X		Ms. Hoyle, OR	X		
Mr. LaMalfa, CA		X		Mr. Magaziner, RI	X		
Mr. Webster, FL		X		Mr. Golden, ME	X		
Mr. Fulcher, ID		X		Mr. Min, CA	X		
Mr. Stauber, MN		X		Ms. Dexter, OR	X		
Mr. Tiffany, WI		X		Mr. Hernández, PR	X		
Ms. Boebert, CO		X		Ms. Randall, WA	X		
Mr. Bentz, OR		X		Ms. Ansari, AZ	X		
Ms. Kiggans, VA		X		Ms. Elfreth, MD	X		
Mr. Hunt, TX		X		Mr. Gray, CA	X		
Mr. Collins, GA		X		Ms. Rivas, CA	X		
Ms. Hageman, WY		X		Ms. Grijalva, AZ	X		
Mr. Amodei, NV				Mrs. Dingell, MI	X		
Mr. Walberg, MI		X		Mr. Soto, FL	X		
Mr. Ezell, MS		X		Ms. Brownley, CA			
Ms. Maloy, UT		X		Ms. Lee, NV	X		
Mr. McDowell, NC		X					
Mr. Crank, CO		X					
Mr. Begich, AK		X					
Mr. Hurd, CO		X					
Mr. Kennedy, UT		X		TOTAL:	18	24	

The bill, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by a roll call vote of 26 yeas to 16 nays, as follows:

**Committee on Natural Resources**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
119th Congress

Date: December 17, 2025

Recorded Vote #: 3

Meeting on / Amendment on: **On Favorably Reporting, as amended, H.R. 5103 (Rep. McGuire), "Make the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Act"**

MEMBERS	Yea	Nay	Pres	MEMBERS	Yea	Nay	Pres
Mr. Westerman, AR, Chairman	X			Mr. Huffman, CA		X	
Mr. Wittman, VA	X			Mr. Neguse, CO			
Mr. McClintock, CA	X			Ms. Leger Fernandez, NM		X	
Mr. Gosar, AZ	X			Ms. Stansbury, NM		X	
Mrs. Radewagen, AS	X			Ms. Hoyle, OR		X	
Mr. LaMalfa, CA	X			Mr. Magaziner, RI		X	
Mr. Webster, FL	X			Mr. Golden, ME	X		
Mr. Fulcher, ID	X			Mr. Min, CA		X	
Mr. Stauber, MN	X			Ms. Dexter, OR		X	
Mr. Tiffany, WI	X			Mr. Hernández, PR		X	
Ms. Boebert, CO	X			Ms. Randall, WA		X	
Mr. Bentz, OR	X			Ms. Ansari, AZ		X	
Ms. Kiggans, VA	X			Ms. Elfreth, MD		X	
Mr. Hunt, TX	X			Mr. Gray, CA	X		
Mr. Collins, GA	X			Ms. Rivas, CA		X	
Ms. Hageman, WY	X			Ms. Grijalva, AZ		X	
Mr. Amodei, NV				Mrs. Dingell, MI		X	
Mr. Walberg, MI	X			Mr. Soto, FL		X	
Mr. Ezell, MS	X			Ms. Brownley, CA			
Ms. Maloy, UT	X			Ms. Lee, NV		X	
Mr. McDowell, NC	X						
Mr. Crank, CO	X						
Mr. Begich, AK	X						
Mr. Hurd, CO	X						
Mr. Kennedy, UT	X			TOTAL:	26	16	

## HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on Federal Lands held on December 2, 2025.

## SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

*Section 1. Short title*

Section 1 names the legislation the “Make the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Act of 2026.”

*Section 2. Program to Beautify District of Columbia*

Section 2 directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish a District of Columbia Beautification Program, developed in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Transportation, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, the Administrator of General Services, and other officials as determined by the Secretary. The program is intended to coordinate and maintain the cleanliness of facilities, monuments, land, public spaces, sidewalks, parks, highways, roads, and transit systems throughout the District, including through the removal of graffiti. It also authorizes the restoration of monuments, memorials, statues, or markers that have been damaged, defaced, or improperly removed, and encourages private-sector participation in cleanup and beautification efforts.

Section 2 further requires annual reporting to the House Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and Natural Resources, and the Senate Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Energy and Natural Resources, beginning one year after enactment. The beautification program is scheduled to sunset on January 2, 2029.

*Section 3. District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Commission*

Section 3 establishes the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Commission within the executive branch. The Commission is comprised of representatives from the Departments of the Interior, Transportation, and Homeland Security; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the United States Marshals Service; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and the U.S. Attorney’s Offices for the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Section 3 also provides for the designation of Commission members and the appointment of a Chair. Section 3 directs the Commission to develop and promote policies to enforce federal immigration law; monitor the District’s sanctuary-city status and ensure compliance with federal immigration requirements; facilitate accreditation of the District’s forensic crime laboratory; assist with the recruitment and retention of Metropolitan Police Department officers in coordination with the Department’s union; and collaborate with local entities to ensure timely processing of concealed-carry license applications. The Commission is further tasked with reviewing and recommending revisions to prosecutorial policies related to pretrial detention to enhance public safety; addressing fare evasion and other crimes associated with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority system; and facilitating a robust law enforce-

ment presence throughout the District, including high-visibility areas such as the National Mall, Lafayette Park, Union Station, and Rock Creek Park.

Section 3 authorizes the Commission to coordinate with the Metropolitan Police Department, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the United States Park Police, and the Amtrak Police Department. The legislation also establishes annual reporting requirements to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, beginning one year after enactment. The Commission sunsets on January 2, 2029.

#### COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

#### PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to establish a program to Beautify the District of Columbia and establish the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Commission.

#### NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX EXPENDITURES

In compliance with clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee adopts as its own the estimate of new budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues contained in the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of House rule XIII, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

#### EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of the Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

#### EXISTING PROGRAMS

*Directed Rule Making.* This bill does not contain any directed rule makings.

*Duplication of Existing Programs.* This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111-139 or identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95-220, as amended by Public Law 98-169) as relating to other programs.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

As ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources, H.R. 5103 would make no changes in existing law.

## DISSENTING VIEWS

H.R. 5103 is part of House Republicans' broad and sweeping attack on Washington, D.C., home rule and self-governance. The bill is about advancing the crackdown and takeover of the District, not helping the National Park Service manage and maintain parks, memorials, and other federal properties in the city.

Congress passed the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (often called the Home Rule Act)<sup>1</sup> on December 19, 1973. It was signed into law by President Richard Nixon five days later. This Act established a limited governing authority granted to an elected Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia. Despite this progress, Washington, D.C.'s approximately 702,250 residents remain subject to federal authority and do not have voting representation in either the House or the Senate.

Washington, D.C.'s limited self-government has been under attack by President Trump and House Republicans. In the 118th Congress, the House has passed at least nine bills that undermine home rule and the sovereignty of the D.C. government, and Congress even inappropriately delayed access to more than \$1 billion of D.C.'s own budget.<sup>2</sup> President Trump then used concerns about crime to justify a federal takeover and crackdown, including the deployment of National Guard troops and broad immigration enforcement.<sup>3</sup>

H.R. 5103 would double down on this overreach by codifying a Trump-created commission that lacks any representation from the District of Columbia government, allowing only federal representatives to discuss a range of policy issues, with a strong emphasis on boosting concealed carry and increasingly lawless immigration enforcement.

When H.R. 5103 was included in a package of 13 measures related to Washington, D.C., marked up by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in September 2025, all of the elected members of the D.C. Council wrote that, "These bills represent an unprecedented attack on the autonomy and home rule of our local government" and "would result in an erosion of accountability and public safety for the District of Columbia."<sup>4</sup>

It is outrageous to claim that promoting more guns and concealed carry permits will help lower crime rates. Crime is already going down thanks to local efforts. In 2024, violent crime in the

<sup>1</sup> P.L. 93-198, 87 Stat. 774.

<sup>2</sup> Miller, Maya C., "D.C. Budget Fix Stalls in the House as Conservative Republicans Balk", *The New York Times*, May, 7, 2025. Available online: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/07/us/washington-d.c.-budget-house-johnson.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Cameron, Chris, "Trump's D.C. Police Takeover and National Guard Deployment, Explained", *The New York Times*, August 13, 2025. Available online: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/13/us/politics/trump-d.c.-national-guard-police.html>.

<sup>4</sup> Council of the District of Columbia, Letter on House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Markup, September 8, 2025.

District of Columbia dropped by 35%, to the lowest level in over 30 years.<sup>5</sup> The Department of Justice noted a 32% reduction in homicides, a 39% reduction in robberies, and a 53% reduction in armed carjacking.<sup>6</sup> Putting more guns on the street is not the answer.

Concerning immigration, the Commission's functions include developing and encouraging policies to maximize enforcement of federal immigration law within D.C., including policies to redirect available resources toward apprehending and deporting illegal aliens. It is also specifically charged with monitoring the District of Columbia's sanctuary-city status and compliance with federal immigration law enforcement. This is a blatant attempt to advance a divisive immigration crackdown, not a serious attempt to "beautify" the capital city or support parks and memorials.

Staffing throughout the National Park Service also remains a significant concern. The agency has lost approximately 25% of its overall workforce since the beginning of last year, and more cuts are planned.<sup>7</sup> This massive reduction affects the National Park System, including the National Capital Region, and H.R. 5103 does nothing to address the ongoing staffing shortfall. To make matters worse, the Trump administration recently announced a wage cut for certain park employees. The wage cut is also coupled with a new cap on performance ratings, intended to limit the number of employees receiving high ratings. Reports indicate that this will likely be used to help justify future reductions in force or terminations. Park staff and union representation have called both of these "legally dubious" and "a morale bomb."<sup>8</sup>

When President Trump initiated the MAGA takeover of Washington, D.C., he told reporters that he intended to raise \$2 billion to support his effort to "beautify" the District.<sup>9</sup> Details about this plan, or any real money to back it up, have not materialized. At the committee markup of this bill, I filed an amendment to take the President at his word by authorizing robust funding for mental health services, food assistance, homeless support programs, and other essential community services. The amendment also included funding to bolster staffing at the National Park Service in the region. Unfortunately, this amendment was rejected by Committee Republicans, laying bare the bill's true intentions. H.R. 5103 is a

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Attorney's Office of the District of Columbia, Press Release, "Violent Crime in D.C. Hits 30 Year Low", Jan. 3, 2025, Available online: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-d.c./pr/violent-crime-d.c.-hits-30-year-low>.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Drew McConville, A Historically Bad Year for Public Lands Under President Trump, Center for American Progress, Dec. 11, 2025. Available online: <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/a-historically-bad-year-for-public-lands-under-president-trump/>.

<sup>8</sup> Sarah Wright, "A Morale Bomb: National Park Workers Face Wage Cuts and 'Dubiously Legal' Review System," KQED, December 12, 2025. Available online: <https://www.kqed.org/news/12066741/a-morale-bomb-national-park-workers-face-wage-cuts-and-dubiously-legal-review-system>.

<sup>9</sup> Kathryn Watson, "Trump says he's raising \$2 billion from Congress to have D.C. 'beautified'", CBS News August 22, 2025. Available online: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-2-billion-congress-d.c.-renovated/>.

wolf in sheep's clothing—not a genuine effort to support the citizens of Washington, D.C., or our beloved national parks.

JARED HUFFMAN,  
*Ranking Member.*

