Public Law 94-320
94th Congress

An Act

To authorize certain flagpoles to be located on the Capitol Grounds, and to improve the flow of traffic to and from the United States Capitol Grounds and the National Visitor Center.

June 25, 1976
[S. 3161]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol and to such conditions as he may prescribe, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to make such use of that portion of the United States Capitol Grounds adjacent or in close proximity to the sidewalks abutting the circular perimeter of the Union Station Plaza in front of Columbus Plaza and the National Visitor Center as may be necessary to enable the Secretary of the Interior to erect and maintain flagpoles to fly the flags of each of the States of the United States and its territories and possessions, generally as shown on NCPC Map File Numbered 1.11 (38.00)-27861.

U.S. Capitol Grounds.
U.S. State flags, placement; flow of traffic, improvement.
40 USC 801 note.

SEC. 2. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Architect of the Capitol is authorized, subject to the provisions of this Act and to such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe, to enter into an agreement with the appropriate officials of the government of the District of Columbia pursuant to which the Architect of the Capitol is authorized to permit the government of the District of Columbia to utilize certain areas of the United States Capitol Grounds for the purpose of making certain street changes in order to coordinate and improve the flow of traffic to and from the United States Capitol Grounds and the National Visitor Center (formerly Union Station), and the flow of traffic within Union Station Plaza.

(b) Pursuant to such agreement, the Architect of the Capitol is authorized to make available to the government of the District of Columbia, for the purposes referred to in subsection (a), certain portions of the United States Capitol Grounds as follows:

(1) approximately two thousand one hundred square feet of land in Square 680, at the east end thereof, located within the United States Capitol Grounds adjacent to the Union Station Plaza, Massachusetts Avenue, and E Street Northeast, in order to enable the government of the District of Columbia to carry out the purposes referred to in subsection (a) of this section, and to change the curbline, and relocate existing sidewalks and curbs, to conform to such street change;

(2) approximately three thousand five hundred square feet of land in Square 723, at the northwest end thereof, located within the United States Capitol Grounds adjacent to the Union Station Plaza, First Street, and Massachusetts Avenue Northeast, in order to enable the government of the District of Columbia to carry out the purposes referred to in subsection (a) of this section, and to change the curbline, and relocate existing sidewalks and curbs, to conform to such street change; and

(3) approximately four hundred square feet of land in Square 721, at the southwest end thereof, located within the United States Capitol Grounds adjacent to the Union Station Plaza and Massachusetts Avenue Northeast, in order to enable the government

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of the District of Columbia to carry out the purposes referred to in subsection (a) of this section, and to change the curbline, and relocate existing sidewalks and curbs, to conform to such street change.

SEC. 3. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to grant to the Secretary of the Interior or to the government of the District of Columbia any right, title, or interest in or to any part of the United States Capitol Grounds and such area affected by this Act or any agreement pursuant thereto shall continue to be a part of the United States Capitol Grounds. All areas of the United States Capitol Grounds, including sidewalks, lawns and other growth, streets, and curblines, disturbed by reason of operations pursuant to this Act shall be promptly relocated or restored by the Secretary of the Interior or the government of the District of Columbia, as the case may be, in a manner approved by, and satisfactory to the Architect of the Capitol.

SEC. 4. The Congress shall not incur any expense, liability, obligation, or other responsibility (operational or otherwise), under or by reason of this Act, or any agreement pursuant to this Act, or be liable under any claim of any nature or kind that may arise from either the construction, operation, or maintenance of the flagpoles authorized by this Act, or from carrying out any agreement pursuant to this Act.

Approved June 25, 1976.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 94-1078 (Comm. on Public Works and Transportation).
SENATE REPORT No. 94-699 (Comm. on Public Works).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 122 (1976):
Mar. 18, considered and passed Senate.
May 17, considered and passed House, amended.
June 15, Senate concurred in House amendment.