

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 162

Providing for enclosing the galleries of the House of Representatives with
a transparent and substantial material.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 6, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana submitted the following resolution; which was referred
to the Committee on House Administration

RESOLUTION

Providing for enclosing the galleries of the House of
Representatives with a transparent and substantial material.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

3 The Congress finds the following:

4 (1) The first bombing of the Capitol occurred
5 in the Senate Wing of the building in 1915 by a
6 man protesting United States involvement in World
7 War I.

8 (2) On March 1, 1954, 4 Puerto Rican nation-
9 alists armed with .38 caliber revolvers entered the
10 visitors' gallery and fired a total of 19 shots at the

1 Members and staff while the House of Representa-
2 tives was in session and conducting a vote. 5 mem-
3 bers of Congress were struck by the gunfire.

4 (3) In 1971, a group named the Weather Un-
5 derground planted an explosive device in a first-floor
6 restroom on the Senate side of the Capitol to protest
7 United States military involvement in the Vietnam
8 War. The device detonated early in the morning
9 when the building was closed, causing extensive
10 damages but no injuries.

11 (4) In 1983, a man carrying an improvised ex-
12 plosive device strapped to his body entered the
13 House gallery while the House was in session. He
14 was able to construct the device in such a manner
15 as to avoid detection during security screening. Dur-
16 ing a floor debate, the man attempted to detonate
17 the device until United States Capitol Police officers
18 restrained the man, removed him from the gallery,
19 and secured the device.

20 (5) In 1983, a group named the Armed Resist-
21 ance Unit planted an explosive device on the second
22 floor of the Senate wing of the Capitol, outside the
23 Senate Chamber. The group was protesting United
24 States military involvement in Central America. The
25 device detonated at 11:00 p.m. causing extensive

1 damage to the area around the Chamber. At the
2 time, the Senate recessed early and no one was in
3 the area when the blast occurred.

4 (6) On July 24, 1998, a lone gunman entered
5 the Document Door of the Capitol and immediately
6 shot and killed the officer posted at that location.
7 The gunman then exchanged gunfire with another
8 officer before fleeing further into the building where
9 he engaged in another gunfight in which a second
10 officer was killed. The gunman was shot several
11 times during this incident.

12 (7) The House and Senate visitors galleries are
13 the frequent target of demonstrators. Whenever the
14 House or Senate is debating a subject which is con-
15 troversial or polarizing, it is not uncommon for dis-
16 turbances to occur in the galleries in the form of
17 civil disobedience.

18 (8) Since August 1996, the United States Cap-
19 itol Police have arrested 3 persons in the House gal-
20 leries and 15 persons in the Senate galleries for dis-
21 rupting Congress.

22 (9) 7,000,000 to 10,000,000 tourists visit the
23 Capitol complex annually.

1 (10) In 1997, the Capitol hosted more than
2 2,000 American and foreign dignitaries, and was the
3 site for nearly 300 scheduled demonstrations.

4 (11) In addition to lawmakers and their staff,
5 a sizable number of journalists, lobbyists, and serv-
6 ice personnel also work within the Capitol complex.

7 (12) These incidents and the amount of visitors
8 and personnel present in the Capitol have prompted
9 increases in the level of security afforded the Capitol
10 complex.

11 **SEC. 2. ENCLOSURE OF HOUSE GALLERY.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Architect of the Capitol shall
13 enclose the galleries of the House of Representatives with
14 a transparent and substantial material, and shall install
15 equipment so that the proceedings on the floor of the
16 House will be clearly audible in the galleries.

17 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—There shall be paid out of the
18 applicable accounts of the House of Representatives such
19 sums as may be reasonably necessary to carry out this
20 resolution.

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