

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 160

To authorize the Architect of the Capitol to develop and implement a plan to improve the Capitol grounds through the elimination and modification of space allocated for parking.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mr. MOYNIHAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To authorize the Architect of the Capitol to develop and implement a plan to improve the Capitol grounds through the elimination and modification of space allocated for parking.

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 “Arc of Park Capitol
5 Grounds Improvement Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. CAPITOL GROUNDS IMPROVEMENT PLAN.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Architect of the Capitol

1 shall develop and begin implementation of a comprehen-
 2 sive plan (referred to as the “comprehensive plan”) for
 3 the improvement of the grounds of the United States Cap-
 4 itol as described in section 193a of title 40, United States
 5 Code.

6 (b) ARC OF PARK.—The comprehensive plan shall—

7 (1) be consistent with the 1981 Report on the
 8 “Master Plan for the Future Development of the
 9 Capitol Grounds and Related Areas” prepared in ac-
 10 cordance with Public Law 94–59 (July 25, 1975);
 11 and

12 (2) result in an “arc of park” sweeping from
 13 Second Street, Northeast to the Capitol Reflecting
 14 Pool to First Street, Southeast, with the Capitol
 15 Building as its approximate center.

16 (c) DETAILS.—The comprehensive plan shall provide
 17 for, at a minimum—

18 (1) elimination of all current surface parking
 19 areas, excepting those areas which provide on-street
 20 parallel parking spaces;

21 (2) replacement of off-street surface parking
 22 areas with public parks landscaped in a fashion ap-
 23 propriate to the United States Capitol grounds;

24 (3) reconstruction of Delaware Avenue, North-
 25 east, between Columbus Circle and Constitution Ave-

1 nue as a thoroughfare available principally to pedes-
 2 trians as contemplated by the Master Plan;

3 (4) elimination of all but parallel parking on
 4 Pennsylvania Avenue, between First and Third
 5 Streets, Northwest;

6 (5) to the greatest extent practical, continu-
 7 ation of the Pennsylvania Avenue tree line onto
 8 United States Capitol Grounds and implementation
 9 of other appropriate landscaping measures necessary
 10 to conform Pennsylvania Avenue between First and
 11 Third Streets, Northwest, to the aesthetic guidelines
 12 adopted by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development
 13 Corporation;

14 (6) closure of Maryland Avenue to through traf-
 15 fic between First and Third Streets, Southwest, con-
 16 sistent with appropriate access to and visitor park-
 17 ing for the United States Botanic Garden; and

18 (7) construction of additional underground
 19 parking facilities, as needed, with—

20 (A) the cost of construction and operation
 21 of such parking facilities defrayed to the great-
 22 est extent practical by charging appropriate
 23 usage fees, including time-of-day fees; and

1 (B) the parking facilities being made avail-
2 able to the general public, with priority given to
3 employees of the Congress.

4 **SEC. 3. APPLICABLE LOCAL LAW.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the con-
6 struction and operation of any improvements under this
7 Act shall not be subject to—

8 (1) any law of the District of Columbia or any
9 State or locality relating to taxes on sales, real es-
10 tate, personal property, special assessments, uses, or
11 any other interest or transaction (including Federal
12 law); or

13 (2) any law of the District of Columbia relating
14 to use, occupancy, or construction, including build-
15 ing costs, permits, or inspection requirements (in-
16 cluding Federal law).

17 (b) LIMITATION.—The Architect of the Capitol shall
18 comply with appropriate recognized national life safety
19 and building codes in undertaking such construction and
20 operation.

21 **SEC. 4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ARCHITECT OF THE**
22 **CAPITOL.**

23 The Architect of the Capitol—

24 (1) shall be responsible for the structural, me-
25 chanical, and custodial care and maintenance of the

1 facilities constructed under this Act and may dis-
2 charge such responsibilities directly or by contract;
3 and

4 (2) may permit the extension of steam and
5 chilled water from the Capitol Power Plant on a re-
6 imburseable basis to any facilities or improvements
7 constructed under this Act at a cost of such im-
8 provements.

9 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
11 as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this
12 Act.

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