

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3169

To revise the composition of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution so that all members are individuals appointed by the President from a list of nominees submitted by the leadership of the Congress, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2015

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To revise the composition of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution so that all members are individuals appointed by the President from a list of nominees submitted by the leadership of the Congress, 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 “Smithsonian Mod-
5 ernization Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF SMITHSONIAN**
2 **BOARD OF REGENTS.**

3 (a) NUMBER OF MEMBERS; APPOINTMENT OF ALL
4 MEMBERS FROM LIST OF NOMINEES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5580(a) of the Re-
6 vised Statutes of the United States (20 U.S.C.
7 42(a)) is amended by striking “to be composed of”
8 and all that follows and inserting the following: “to
9 be composed of 21 members appointed by the Presi-
10 dent from among the list of nominees submitted
11 under subsection (b), of whom 2 shall be residents
12 of the District of Columbia.”.

13 (2) LIST OF NOMINEES.—Section 5580 of the
14 Revised Statutes of the United States (20 U.S.C.
15 42(a)) is amended—

16 (A) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
17 section (c); and

18 (B) by inserting after subsection (a) the
19 following new subsection:

20 “(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives
21 and the Majority Leader of the Senate shall each submit
22 to the President a list of 12 nominees for appointment
23 as members of the Board of Regents.”.

24 (3) REVISION OF QUORUM.—Section 5582 of
25 the Revised Statutes of the United States (20
26 U.S.C. 44) is amended by striking “eight shall con-

1 stitute a quorum” and inserting “17 shall constitute
2 a quorum”.

3 (4) NO EFFECT ON CURRENT CITIZEN RE-
4 GENTS.—Nothing in the amendments made by this
5 subsection may be construed to affect the authority
6 of any individual who serves as a Regent of the
7 Smithsonian Institution as of the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act pursuant to a joint resolution of
9 the Congress to continue to serve as a Regent after
10 that date.

11 (b) UNIFORM TERM OF SERVICE.—Section 5581 of
12 the Revised Statutes of the United States (20 U.S.C. 43)
13 is amended to read as follows:

14 “SEC. 5581. (a) Except as provided in subsections
15 (b) and (c), each Regent of the Smithsonian Institution
16 shall be appointed for a term of 6 years, and may be re-
17 appointed for additional terms.

18 “(b) Of the Regents who are appointed after the date
19 of the enactment of the Smithsonian Modernization Act
20 of 2015 who were not serving as Regents prior to that
21 date—

22 “(1) 4 shall be appointed for a term of 2 years
23 (as designated in the joint resolution under which
24 they are appointed) and may be reappointed for ad-
25 ditional terms of 6 years; and

1 “(2) 4 shall be appointed for a term of 4 years
2 (as designated in the joint resolution under which
3 they are appointed) and may be reappointed for ad-
4 ditional terms of 6 years.

5 “(c) Any Regent appointed to fill a vacancy occurring
6 before the expiration of the term for which the Regent’s
7 predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the
8 remainder of that term. A Regent may serve after the ex-
9 piration of that Regent’s term until a successor has taken
10 office.”.

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