

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2773

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to sell Pershing Hall.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2017

Mr. COFFMAN (for himself, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to sell
Pershing Hall.

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. AUTHORIZATION OF SALE OF PERSHING HALL.**

4 Section 403 of the Veterans' Benefits Programs Im-
5 provement Act of 1991 (Public Law 102–86; 38 U.S.C.
6 2400 note) is amended by adding at the end the following
7 new subsection:

8 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF SALE.—(1) The Secretary
9 shall sell for fair market value Pershing Hall and transfer
10 and convey to the purchaser all right, title, and interest

1 of the United States in or to such property. The Secretary
2 shall determine fair market value based on an independent
3 assessment conducted by a nongovernmental entity. The
4 Secretary may only accept money as consideration for
5 such sale. As a condition of such sale, the Secretary shall
6 require that the purchaser agree to preserve the architec-
7 tural details of the exterior and interior of Pershing Hall.

8 “(2) On or before the date on which the Secretary
9 sells Pershing Hall pursuant to paragraph (1), the Sec-
10 retary shall transfer to the American Battle Monuments
11 Commission any personal property (including memorabilia
12 regarding General Pershing and the American Expedi-
13 tionary Forces in France during World War I) in the pos-
14 session of the Department of Veterans Affairs as of the
15 date of the enactment of this subsection, regardless of the
16 location of the property at the time of the transfer, that
17 was located in Pershing Hall (or otherwise associated with
18 Pershing Hall) on the date on which the United States
19 acquired Pershing Hall pursuant to the Act of June 28,
20 1935 (Chapter 323; 49 Stat. 426).

21 “(3) The funds received by the Secretary pursuant
22 to the sale of Pershing Hall under paragraph (1) shall
23 be transferred to the American Battle Monuments Com-
24 mission and be made available, subject to appropriation
25 and without fiscal year limitation, for maintaining ceme-

1 teries, monuments, and memorials under the jurisdiction
2 of the Commission.

3 “(4)(A) Effective on the day after the date of the sale
4 of Pershing Hall authorized under paragraph (1), the au-
5 thority of the Secretary to carry out subsections (a), (b),
6 (c), and (e) shall terminate except for purposes of carrying
7 out paragraph (2) of this subsection.

8 “(B) Effective on the date that is one year after the
9 date of the sale of Pershing Hall authorized under para-
10 graph (1), the Pershing Hall Revolving Fund shall be
11 abolished and the corpus of the fund, including accrued
12 interest, shall be transferred to the American Battle
13 Monuments Commission and be made available, subject to
14 appropriation and without fiscal year limitation, for main-
15 taining cemeteries, monuments, and memorials under the
16 jurisdiction of the Commission.

17 “(5) Not later than 180 days after the date of the
18 enactment of this subsection, and each 180-day period
19 thereafter until the date on which the Secretary sells Per-
20 shing Hall pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
21 submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the
22 House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the
23 implementation of this subsection. Not later than 30 days
24 after the date of such sale, the Secretary shall submit to

- 1 such committees a final report on the implementation of
- 2 this subsection.”.

