

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2502

To establish in the Office of the Architect of the Capitol the position of Director of Fire Safety and Protection to assume responsibility for fire safety and protection activities of the Architect of the Capitol, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 3, 2000

Mr. SARBANES (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

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## A BILL

To establish in the Office of the Architect of the Capitol the position of Director of Fire Safety and Protection to assume responsibility for fire safety and protection activities of the Architect of the Capitol, 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 “United States Capitol  
5 Fire Protection Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1           (1) although progress has been made in recent  
2           years, the Capitol, House and Senate Office Build-  
3           ings, and Library of Congress still do not provide  
4           staff and visitors with the fire safety and protection  
5           they deserve;

6           (2) the Architect of the Capitol must place  
7           great emphasis on the need to ensure that these and  
8           other properties administered by the Architect, and  
9           individuals who visit or work in these properties,  
10          enjoy the maximum protection that modern tech-  
11          nology and human diligence can provide against fire  
12          and related threats to life and property; and

13          (3)(A) properties and structures of the United  
14          States Capitol Complex are of historical and archi-  
15          tectural significance and are an essential public and  
16          national resource; and

17          (B) it is necessary and essential that such prop-  
18          erties and structures be preserved and rehabilitated  
19          in such a manner as to retain their historical and  
20          architectural significance.

21          (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to estab-  
22          lish the position of the Director of Fire Safety and Protec-  
23          tion to assist the Architect of the Capitol in meeting the  
24          Architect's responsibilities for fire safety and protection  
25          so that the properties of the United States Capitol Com-

1 plex will be protected from fire and serve as a safe environ-  
2 ment for those who work or visit there.

3 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF**  
4 **FIRE SAFETY AND PROTECTION.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the  
6 Office of the Architect of the Capitol the position of Direc-  
7 tor of Fire Safety and Protection.

8 (b) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION.—

9 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Director of Fire Safe-  
10 ty and Protection shall be appointed by the Archi-  
11 tect of the Capitol from among individuals with the  
12 knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to carry out  
13 the duties described in this Act.

14 (2) COMPENSATION.—The Architect of the  
15 Capitol shall fix the rate of basic pay and benefits  
16 for the Director of Fire Safety and Protection as the  
17 Architect considers appropriate, except that such  
18 rate and benefits may not be less than the rate of  
19 pay and benefits for the Director of Engineering  
20 under the Architect of the Capitol.

21 (c) DUTIES.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Working under the direction  
23 and control of the Architect of the Capitol and re-  
24 porting directly to the Architect, the Director of Fire  
25 Safety and Protection shall—

1 (A) be responsible for all fire safety and  
2 protection activities of the Architect of the Cap-  
3 itol;

4 (B) ensure that Architect properties meet  
5 the applicable codes and standards established  
6 by the National Fire Protection Association, ex-  
7 cept that the Architect may modify the applica-  
8 tion of such codes to the properties to take into  
9 account the historic and architecturally signifi-  
10 cant features of such properties so long as a  
11 reasonable degree of safety and protection is  
12 maintained; and

13 (C) carry out the duties specified in para-  
14 graph (2).

15 (2) DUTIES SPECIFIED.—The duties specified  
16 in this paragraph are as follows:

17 (A) The routine periodic testing and main-  
18 tenance of all fire alarm, fire suppression, and  
19 fire protection systems in all Architect prop-  
20 erties.

21 (B) The conduct of comprehensive inspec-  
22 tions and risk assessments on a regular basis  
23 (but not less frequently than once each year) of  
24 all Architect properties to identify conditions  
25 which constitute fire hazards and develop plans

1 for the prompt abatement of such conditions, in  
2 accordance with the requirements specified  
3 under paragraph (1)(B).

4 (C) The development and implementation  
5 of programs to train employees of the Architect  
6 of the Capitol and others in—

7 (i) the proper use and maintenance of  
8 fire alarm, fire suppression, and fire pro-  
9 tection systems; and

10 (ii) the proper use and storage of haz-  
11 ardous chemicals and materials.

12 (D) The identification of structural  
13 changes and repairs which may be necessary to  
14 assure maximum fire protection and safety in  
15 Architect properties, and the development of  
16 comprehensive plans to carry out such changes.

17 (E) The preparation of semiannual reports  
18 on the efforts made by the Director to carry out  
19 the duties required under this subsection.

20 (F) Consultation with experts in fire safety  
21 and protection regarding the modification of  
22 codes and standards carried out under para-  
23 graph (1)(B) and such other matters relating to  
24 the Director's duties as the Director considers  
25 appropriate.

1           (G) Any other steps as may be reasonably  
2           necessary to protect Architect properties from  
3           fire and provide a safe environment for employ-  
4           ees and visitors.

5 **SEC. 4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ARCHITECT.**

6           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Architect of the Capitol shall  
7           provide the Director of Fire Safety and Protection with  
8           such staff and other resources as the Director may reason-  
9           ably require to carry out duties under this Act, except that  
10          the Architect of the Capitol shall assign not fewer than  
11          12 full-time equivalent employees to the Director for car-  
12          rying out such duties.

13          (b) BUDGET REQUEST.—Beginning with fiscal year  
14          2002, the Architect of the Capitol shall include in the  
15          budget request for the Architect for each fiscal year a sep-  
16          arate statement of the total amount to be used to carry  
17          out the duties of the Director of Fire Safety and Protec-  
18          tion in that fiscal year.

19          (c) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.—The Architect shall  
20          submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House  
21          of Representatives and Senate, the Committee on House  
22          Administration of the House of Representatives, the Com-  
23          mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House  
24          of Representatives, and the Committee on Rules and Ad-  
25          ministration of the Senate the semiannual reports pre-

1 pared by the Director of Fire Safety and Protection under  
2 section 3(c)(2)(E).

3 **SEC. 5. ARCHITECT PROPERTIES DEFINED.**

4 In this Act, the term “Architect properties” means  
5 any properties under the jurisdiction of the Architect of  
6 the Capitol, including the Capitol, House and Senate Of-  
7 fice Buildings, the Library of Congress, the United States  
8 Botanic Garden, and the Capitol Power Plant.

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