

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 665

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2004

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

RESOLUTION

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

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SEC. 1. FINDINGS.**

3 Congress finds the following:

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

7 (2) On March 1, 1954, four Puerto Rican na-
8 tionalists armed with .38 caliber revolvers entered
9 the visitors' gallery of the House of Representatives
10 and fired a total of 19 shots at Members and staff

1 while the House was in session and conducting a
2 vote; five Members were struck by the gunfire.

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

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

19 (5) Also in 1983, a group named the Armed
20 Resistance Unit planted an explosive device on the
21 second floor of the Senate, outside the Senate
22 Chamber, to protest United States military involve-
23 ment in Central America. The device detonated at
24 11:00 p.m. causing extensive damage to the area
25 around the Chamber. At the time, the Senate had

1 already recessed and no one was in the area when
2 the blast occurred.

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

11 (7) On the terrible and fateful morning of Sep-
12 tember 11, 2001, the people of the United States be-
13 came painfully aware of the destructive intent of ter-
14 rorists as well as the increasingly sophisticated and
15 devastating methods by which they conduct their
16 deadly work. Evidence strongly suggests Members of
17 Congress were and continue to remain a terrorist
18 target.

19 (8) The visitors' galleries of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives and the Senate are the frequent target
21 of demonstrators. Whenever the House or Senate is
22 debating a subject that is controversial or polarizing,
23 it is not uncommon for disturbances and acts of civil
24 disobedience to occur in the galleries.

1 (9) Since August 1996, the United States Cap-
2 itol Police have arrested three people in the visitors'
3 galleries of the House of Representatives and 15
4 people in the visitors' galleries of the Senate for dis-
5 rupting Congress.

6 (10) In 2000, close to 3,000,000 people visited
7 the Capitol and during the peak tourist season as
8 many as 18,000 people visit each day.

9 (11) In addition to Members and their staff, a
10 sizable number of journalists, lobbyists, and service
11 personnel also work within the Capitol complex.

12 (12) These above-cited incidents and the large
13 number of visitors and personnel present in the Cap-
14 itol have prompted increases in the level of security
15 afforded the Capitol complex.

16 **SEC. 2. ENCLOSURE OF VISITORS' GALLERIES OF THE**
17 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

18 (a) ENCLOSURE.—The Architect of the Capitol shall
19 enclose the visitors' galleries of the House of Representa-
20 tives with a transparent and substantial material, and
21 shall install equipment so that the proceedings on the floor
22 of the House of Representatives will be clearly audible in
23 the galleries.

24 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—There shall be paid out of the
25 applicable accounts of the House of Representatives such

1 sums as may be reasonably necessary to carry out this
2 section.

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