

95TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 12579

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 1978

Mr. WALSH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Public Works and Transportation

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Buildings Act of 1959 in order to restore the Pension Building in Washington, District of Columbia, to house the Museum of Building Arts, 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       That the Public Buildings Act of 1959, as amended, is  
4       hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following  
5       new section:

6                               " FINDINGS AND PURPOSES

7       "SEC. 18. (a) (1) The Congress hereby declares that  
8       the Federal building in the District of Columbia, operated  
9       and managed by the General Services Administration and

1 known as the Pension Building, is unique, historic, consti-  
2 tutes an architectural treasure belonging to the people of the  
3 United States, and must be restored and appropriately  
4 utilized.

5 “(2) The Congress further declares that the Pension  
6 Building would most appropriately be dedicated to public  
7 use as the Nation’s Museum of the Building Arts, benefiting  
8 present and future generations.

9 “(b) As used in this Act, the term—

10 “(1) ‘building arts’ encompasses without limitation,  
11 all practical and scholarly aspects of architecture, land-  
12 scape architecture, engineering, building and construc-  
13 tion, urban planning and design, physical development  
14 and renewal, and historic preservation;

15 “(2) ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of  
16 General Services; and

17 “(3) ‘Museum’ means the Museum of the Building  
18 Arts.

19 “(c) (1) The Administrator of General Services, in  
20 conjunction with the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institu-  
21 tion, the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts  
22 and the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Hu-  
23 manities is hereby authorized and directed to develop archi-  
24 tectural and engineering designs, plans, specifications, in-  
25 cluding alternatives if appropriate, and a proposed budget

1 for the restoration, renovation, and adaptation of the Pen-  
2 sion Building and related real property located in the block  
3 bounded by Fourth Street, Fifth Street, F Street, and  
4 G Street, Northwest, in the District of Columbia.

5 “(2) Plans developed under this subsection shall insure  
6 that the architectural integrity of the Pension Building shall  
7 be fully realized and preserved. Such plans shall be sub-  
8 mitted to the Committee on Environment and Public Works  
9 of the Senate and the Committee on Public Works and  
10 Transportation of the House of Representatives no later  
11 than six months following the date of enactment of this  
12 Act.

13 “(3) The Administrator shall insure that such plans are  
14 consistent with the proposal prepared by the Committee  
15 for a National Museum of Building Arts, Incorporated, dated  
16 January 1978, and on file at the National Endowment for  
17 the Arts. In preparing such plans, the Administrator is au-  
18 thorized and directed to seek the advice and consultation of  
19 the officers and members of the Committee for a National  
20 Museum of the Building Arts, Incorporated.

21 “(d) The Administrator shall assure that any occu-  
22 pancy of the Pension Building shall be temporary, pending  
23 establishment and occupancy of the building by the Museum  
24 of the Building Arts and that any such temporary occupancy  
25 shall in no way conflict with, interfere with, or cause to de-

1 lay the timely restoration and renovation of the building to  
2 house the Museum.

3 “(e) For the purposes of this section the Administrator  
4 is authorized and directed to expend from funds available  
5 to him for the alteration and repair of public buildings a sum  
6 not to exceed \$2,000,000.

7 “(f) Such designs and plans shall, as far as practicable—  
8 “(1) preserve, enhance, and restore the distinctive  
9 and historically authentic architectural character of the  
10 building;

11 “(2) retain the usability of the central court of the  
12 building for activities associated with Presidential  
13 inaugurations;

14 “(3) demonstrate energy-efficient standards of de-  
15 sign. Such designs and plans shall further assure the  
16 accessibility and usability of the building by handi-  
17 capped persons; and

18 “(4) include architectural modifications needed to  
19 assure that the Museum or part of the facility is readily  
20 accessible to and usable by handicapped persons.

21 “(g) The Administrator shall provide the Advisory  
22 Council on Historic Preservation with adequate opportunity  
23 to comment on the designs and plans for the restoration and  
24 adaptation of the Pension Building.

25 “(h) The Administrator may lease or assign space in

1 the Pension Building only to nonprofit organizations or en-  
2 tities, or agencies or instrumentalities of the United States,  
3 whose programs and activities are compatible with the pro-  
4 grams and activities of the Museum. Such leases shall be on  
5 such terms and conditions as the Administrator may deter-  
6 mine, but no later than three hundred and sixty-five days  
7 after the date of enactment of this Act the Administrator  
8 shall lease or assign the Pension Building to the Museum of  
9 the Building Arts.”.

## 10 TITLE II—THE MUSEUM OF THE BUILDING

### 11 ARTS

#### 12 FINDINGS AND PURPOSES

13 SEC. 201. (a) The Congress finds and declares that an  
14 informed citizenry is essential to assure a humane, workable,  
15 ecologically sensitive, and energy-efficient built environment  
16 for future generations, and that this requires—

17 (1) the promotion of educational programs in the  
18 Nation’s schools to enhance understanding and appre-  
19 ciation of all facets of the building arts and sciences;

20 (2) the systematic study and documentation of the  
21 achievements of American business, labor, and profes-  
22 sions in the building arts and sciences;

23 (3) the creation in the Nation’s Capital of a center  
24 to exhibit, demonstrate, and promote innovative Amer-  
25 ican contributions to the building arts and sciences;



1 (b) RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION PROGRAM.—

2 The Museum shall undertake the financial support of  
3 eminent scholars who research and write about contributions  
4 of American business, labor, and professions to the building  
5 arts and sciences.

6 (c) EXHIBITIONS.—The Museum shall, through acqui-  
7 tions, loans, and donations, seek to bring together artifacts  
8 of the building arts and sciences. Such artifacts may include,  
9 but not be limited to, significant buildings, parts of buildings,  
10 architectural details of buildings, photographs, paintings,  
11 maps, drawings, and models of buildings, spaces, and  
12 structures. Other artifacts, which may be obtained by the  
13 Museum through acquisition, loan, or donation may include,  
14 but not be limited to, the tools, machinery, materials, and  
15 ornaments, of the building trades and crafts. The operation  
16 of such tools, machinery, and construction processes may also  
17 be demonstrated. The exhibits displayed by the Museum  
18 may be of a temporary or permanent nature, and shall, to  
19 the extent feasible, be available for traveling exhibitions to  
20 appropriate places throughout the world. Particular emphasis  
21 shall be placed on the achievements of American builders,  
22 planners, engineers, architects, landscape architects, crafts-  
23 men, and related professions.

24 (d) INFORMATION EXCHANGE.—In collaboration with  
25 other Federal and international agencies, the Museum shall

1 establish an information center and clearinghouse. Such in-  
2 formation center shall identify, locate, and catalog available  
3 research materials, documents, and other source materials  
4 and their location. Such catalog of materials and their loca-  
5 tion shall be part of a referral service for visitors, scholars,  
6 researchers, and others.

7 (e) DOCUMENTATION.—A Document Center shall be  
8 established for those source materials such as architectural  
9 drawings, building plans, writings of eminent architects,  
10 city planners, urban designers, and allied professionals,  
11 which lack protection.

12 (f) PLANNING AND BUILDING FORUM.—The Museum  
13 shall involve citizens in the planning and design process  
14 for the built environment in which they live. From time  
15 to time the Museum shall sponsor appropriate dialogs  
16 among citizens, builders, developers, planners, architects,  
17 government representatives, and other interested parties  
18 concerning critical national issues in the planning, building,  
19 and design fields.

20 (g) BUILDING TRADES DEMONSTRATION.—The skills  
21 and methods of operation of building tradesmen and allied  
22 skilled craftsmen may be demonstrated at the Museum.

23 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

24 SEC. 203. (a) In carrying out its programs and ac-  
25 tivities the Museum is authorized to enter into cooperative

1 arrangements by contract or otherwise with the Library  
2 of Congress, the National Park Service, the National Ar-  
3 chives, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Endowment  
4 for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities,  
5 or any other department, agency, or instrumentality of the  
6 United States.

7 (b) Each department, agency, or other instrumentality  
8 of the United States is hereby authorized to transfer or loan  
9 to the Museum without charge therefor works of art, books,  
10 records, drawings, artifacts, equipment, or other objects for  
11 educational, historical, archival, or exhibition purposes. Any  
12 such department, agency, or other instrumentality of the  
13 United States, including the Government Printing Office, is  
14 authorized to furnish property, both real and personal, and  
15 personal and nonpersonal services to the Museum, and the  
16 Museum is authorized to furnish property and services to  
17 them. The furnishing of property and services under this  
18 section shall be under such terms and conditions, including  
19 reimbursability, as the Museum and the head of the depart-  
20 ment, agency, or instrumentality concerned shall deem  
21 appropriate.

#### 22 AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

23 SEC. 204. (a) There are authorized to be appropriated  
24 for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Museum  
25 such sums as may be necessary.

1       (b) Funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall  
2 remain available until expended and shall be paid to the  
3 Museum in annual installments at the beginning of each fiscal  
4 year in such amounts as may be specified in Acts of Congress  
5 making appropriations.

6       (c) Non-Federal funds received by the Museum shall be  
7 accounted for and reported as receipts and disbursements  
8 separate and distinct from Federal funds.

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