

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1566

To permit employees of the House of Representatives who are authorized to possess certain weapons in the District of Columbia to bring such weapons into House Office Buildings for secure storage, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2023

Mr. STEUBE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To permit employees of the House of Representatives who are authorized to possess certain weapons in the District of Columbia to bring such weapons into House Office Buildings for secure storage, 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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Safe Storage Lockers for House Office Buildings Act”.

6 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In 2021, there were 2,654 violent crime in-
2 cidents in the District of Columbia, and 2,900 of-
3 fenses reported in the District of Columbia by 2 law
4 enforcement agencies that submitted National Inci-
5 dent-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data which
6 covered the entire population of the District.

7 (2) Many employees of the House of Represent-
8 atives who work in House Office Buildings in the
9 District of Columbia commute to and from their of-
10 fices by walking, and many have themselves been
11 victims of these crimes in the District of Columbia.

12 (3) Individuals in the District of Columbia are
13 authorized under District of Columbia law to carry
14 and use certain weapons for self-defense, including
15 self-defense sprays, stun guns, and concealed fire-
16 arms. However, District of Columbia and Federal
17 law prohibit individuals from carrying these weapons
18 inside a Federal building.

19 (4) As a result, employees of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives who work in House Office Buildings in
21 the District of Columbia are prohibited from car-
22 rying weapons inside the buildings in which they
23 work, even if these employees are authorized under
24 District of Columbia law to carry and use these
25 weapons for self-defense outside these buildings.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZING HOUSE EMPLOYEES TO BRING CER-**
2 **TAIN SELF-DEFENSE WEAPONS INTO HOUSE**
3 **OFFICE BUILDINGS.**

4 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—An individual who is an em-
5 ployee of the House of Representatives may bring a weap-
6 on described in subsection (b) into a House office building
7 if—

8 (1) the individual is authorized under the laws
9 of the District of Columbia to carry the weapon out-
10 side of the building;

11 (2) immediately prior to entering the building,
12 the individual is carrying the weapon in compliance
13 with such laws;

14 (3) the individual enters the building through
15 an external pedestrian entrance;

16 (4) upon entering the building with the weapon,
17 the individual leaves the weapon in a storage locker
18 operated by the United States Capitol Police under
19 section 3 while the individual remains in the build-
20 ing; and

21 (5) after retrieving the weapon from the locker,
22 the individual leaves the building immediately.

23 (b) WEAPONS DESCRIBED.—The weapons described
24 in this subsection are as follows:

1 (1) A self-defense spray described in section
2 212 of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of
3 1975 (sec. 7–2502.12, D.C. Official Code).

4 (2) A stun gun described in section 101(17A)
5 of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975
6 (sec. 7–2501.01(17A), D.C. Official Code).

7 (3) A firearm described in section 101(9) of the
8 Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 (sec. 7–
9 2501.01(9), D.C. Official Code).

10 **SEC. 3. PROVISION OF SAFE STORAGE LOCKERS AT BUILD-**
11 **ING ENTRANCES.**

12 (a) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF CAPITOL POLICE**
13 **BOARD.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the
14 enactment of this Act, the Capitol Police Board shall de-
15 sign, install, and operate storage lockers at external pedes-
16 trian entrances to each House office building, which may
17 be used while an employee of the House is in the building
18 to safely store a weapon which the employee brings into
19 the building under section 2, and from which the employee
20 may retrieve the weapon when the employee leaves the
21 building.

22 (b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Capitol Police Board shall
23 promulgate such regulations as may be required to carry
24 out this section.

1 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
2 5104(e)(1)(A) of title 40, United States Code, is amended
3 by striking “except as authorized” and inserting “except
4 as provided under the Safe Storage Lockers for House Of-
5 fice Buildings Act or as authorized”.

6 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

7 (a) EMPLOYEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
8 TIVES.—In this Act, an “employee of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives” includes an intern (whether paid or unpaid)
10 and a fellow assigned to an office of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives.

12 (b) HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—In this Act, the term
14 “House office building” means any of the following:

15 (A) The Cannon House Office Building.

16 (B) The Longworth House Office Building.

17 (C) The Rayburn House Office Building.

18 (D) The Ford House Office Building.

19 (E) The O’Neill House Office Building.

20 (F) The House wing of the United States
21 Capitol.

22 (2) EXCLUSION OF GARAGES.—The term
23 “House office building” does not include a garage of
24 a building described in paragraph (1).

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