

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6394

To provide for the creation of a Congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. EVANS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, and Mr. LAWLER) 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 provide for the creation of a Congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial of the United States, 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 “Semiquincentennial
5 Congressional Time Capsule Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CONGRESSIONAL TIME CAP-**
2 **SULE.**

3 (a) CREATION BY ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL.—
4 The Architect of the Capitol shall create a Congressional
5 time capsule, to be known as the “Semiquincentennial
6 Congressional Time Capsule” (in this Act referred to as
7 the “Time Capsule”).

8 (b) CONTENTS.—

9 (1) DETERMINATION BY CONGRESSIONAL LEAD-
10 ERSHIP.—The Office of the Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives, Office of the Minority Leader of the
12 House of Representatives, Office of the Majority
13 Leader of the Senate, and Office of the Minority
14 Leader of the Senate shall jointly determine the con-
15 tents of the Time Capsule, taking into account the
16 requirements of paragraph (2).

17 (2) SPECIFICATIONS.—The contents of the
18 Time Capsule shall include—

19 (A) a representative portion of all books,
20 manuscripts, miscellaneous printed matter,
21 memorabilia, relics, and other materials relating
22 to the United States Semiquincentennial;

23 (B) copies or representations of important
24 legislative and institutional milestones of Con-
25 gress during the time before the Time Capsule
26 is buried;

1 (C) a message from Congress to the future
2 Congress when the Time Capsule will be
3 opened; and

4 (D) such other content as the offices de-
5 scribed in paragraph (1) consider appropriate.

6 (3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this sub-
7 section, the offices described in paragraph (1) may
8 consult with the Architect of the Capitol, the Sec-
9 retary of the Smithsonian Institution, and such
10 other entities of the Federal Government as the of-
11 fices consider appropriate.

12 (c) DUTIES OF ARCHITECT.—The Architect of the
13 Capitol shall—

14 (1) prepare the Time Capsule to be sealed and
15 buried on the West Lawn of the Capitol, at a loca-
16 tion specified by the Architect, on or before July
17 4th, 2026, at a time which would permit individuals
18 attending this event to also attend the burial of a
19 time capsule in Independence Mall in Philadelphia,
20 Pennsylvania, under section 7(f)(1) of the United
21 States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016
22 (36 U.S.C. 101 note prec.); and

23 (2) install a plaque to provide such information
24 about the Time Capsule as the Architect considers
25 appropriate.

1 (d) UNSEALING.—The Time Capsule shall be sealed
2 until July 4th, 2276, on which date the Speaker of the
3 House of Representatives shall present the Time Capsule
4 to the 244th Congress, and such Congress shall determine
5 how the contents within should be preserved or used.

6 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
8 necessary to carry out this Act, and any amounts so ap-
9 propriated shall remain available until expended.

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