

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5521

To amend title 40, United States Code, to permit commercial filmmaking and photography on the United States Capitol grounds, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2019

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 40, United States Code, to permit commercial filmmaking and photography on the United States Capitol grounds, 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. PERMITTING COMMERCIAL FILMMAKING AND**
4 **PHOTOGRAPHY ON UNITED STATES CAPITOL**
5 **GROUND.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5106 of title 40, United
7 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing new subsection:

1 “(d) COMMERCIAL FILMMAKING AND PHOTOG-
2 RAPHY.—

3 “(1) AUTHORIZATION BY CAPITOL POLICE.—

4 Notwithstanding section 5104(c) or any other provi-
5 sion of this chapter which restricts commercial activ-
6 ity on the United States Capitol Grounds, the Chief
7 of the United States Capitol Police (hereafter in this
8 subsection referred to as the ‘Chief’)—

9 “(A) may issue a permit authorizing a per-
10 son to engage in appropriate commercial
11 filmmaking and photography activity on the
12 United States Capitol Grounds (other than any
13 Capitol Buildings described in section 5101), so
14 long as the person only engages in such activity
15 on a day on which neither House of Congress
16 is in session; and

17 “(B) under the terms and conditions of
18 such a permit, may require the person to whom
19 the permit is issued to pay an appropriate fee
20 to cover any costs incurred by the Architect of
21 the Capitol as a result of the issuance of the
22 permit.

23 “(2) TYPES OF ACTIVITIES AND FEES PER-
24 MITTED.—For purposes of paragraph (1)—

1 “(A) commercial filmmaking and photog-
2 raphy activity shall be considered appropriate
3 only if the activity is similar to the types of
4 commercial activity permitted in Union Square
5 prior to the transfer of jurisdiction and control
6 of Union Square to the Architect of the Capitol
7 under section 1202 of the Legislative Branch
8 Appropriations Act, 2012 (2 U.S.C. 1811 note);
9 and

10 “(B) a fee shall be considered appropriate
11 only if the fee is similar to the fee collected by
12 the Director of the National Park Service for
13 commercial activity permitted in Union Square
14 prior to such transfer of jurisdiction and con-
15 trol.

16 “(3) USE OF FEES.—Immediately upon receiv-
17 ing any fees collected under paragraph (1)(B), the
18 Chief shall transfer the fees to the Capitol Trust Ac-
19 count established under section 213(c) of the Legis-
20 lative Branch Appropriations Act, 2014 (40 U.S.C.
21 5102 note).

22 “(4) REGULATIONS.—The Chief shall carry out
23 this subsection in accordance with such regulations
24 as the Capitol Police Board may promulgate pursu-
25 ant to the Board’s authority under section 14 of the

1 Act of July 31, 1946 (2 U.S.C. 1969), except that
2 the Board shall promulgate the regulations in con-
3 sultation with the Committee on House Administra-
4 tion of the House of Representatives and the Com-
5 mittee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

6 “(5) UNION SQUARE DEFINED.—In this sub-
7 section, the term ‘Union Square’ means the area for
8 which jurisdiction and control was transferred to the
9 Architect of the Capitol under section 1202 of the
10 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2012 (2
11 U.S.C. 1811 note).”.

12 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO CAP-
13 ITOL TRUST ACCOUNT.—Section 213(c) of the Legislative
14 Branch Appropriations Act, 2014 (40 U.S.C. 5102 note)
15 is amended by striking “subsection (b)(2)” each place it
16 appears and inserting “subsection (b)(2) or section
17 5106(d) of title 40, United States Code”.

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