

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3293

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 13), 2023

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. ROUNDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

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”.

6 **SEC. 2. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CONGRESSIONAL TIME CAP-**
7 **SULE.**

8 (a) CREATION BY ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL.—

9 The Architect of the Capitol shall create a Congressional

1 time capsule, to be known as the “Semiquincentennial
2 Congressional Time Capsule” (in this Act referred to as
3 the “Time Capsule”).

4 (b) CONTENTS.—

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

13 (2) SPECIFICATIONS.—The contents of the
14 Time Capsule shall include—

15 (A) a representative portion of all books,
16 manuscripts, miscellaneous printed matter,
17 memorabilia, relics, and other materials relating
18 to the United States Semiquincentennial;

19 (B) copies or representations of important
20 legislative and institutional milestones of Con-
21 gress during the time before the Time Capsule
22 is buried;

23 (C) a message from Congress to the future
24 Congress when the Time Capsule will be
25 opened; and

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

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

9 (c) DUTIES OF ARCHITECT.—The Architect of the
10 Capitol shall—

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

20 (2) install a plaque to provide such information
21 about the Time Capsule as the Architect considers
22 appropriate.

23 (d) UNSEALING.—The Time Capsule shall be sealed
24 until July 4th, 2276, on which date the Speaker of the
25 House of Representatives shall present the Time Capsule

1 to the 244th Congress, and such Congress shall determine
2 how the contents within should be preserved or used.

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

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