



Fact Sheet: H.R. 2612 – Public Buildings Savings and Reform Act of 2013

Background Information

- H.R. 2612 amends the *Public Buildings Act* to improve the function and management of the Public Buildings Service of the General Services Administration (GSA).
- The bill addresses waste and mismanagement identified by Committee investigations, Government Accountability Office studies, and the GSA Inspector General.
- Waste and mismanagement identified has included the expansion of the federal real property footprint, the lack of transparency on federal property information and utilization, the overbuilding of federal courthouses, and GSA's bonus and internship systems and conferences.

Summary

H.R. 2612 was introduced by Subcommittee Chairman Barletta, along with Subcommittee Ranking Member Norton, Chairman Shuster, and Ranking Member Rahall on July 8, 2013.

The bill reforms the Public Buildings Service and its management of federal real property. Specifically, the bill would:

- Freeze GSA's real estate footprint;
- Minimize the costs of leased space by requiring GSA to report on leases that exceed the standard rental rates;
- Increase transparency of leases by requiring GSA to provide annual lists to the Committee on leases signed in the previous fiscal year;
- Establish zero-based space justifications by requiring all requests for space, including lease renewals, be fully justified;
- Reduce costs related to courthouses by establishing limitations on the number of courtrooms that can be constructed based on courtroom sharing policies;

- Require an Inspector General review of GSA's internship programs to examine costs, value added, improvements, and compliance with federal hiring laws;
- Establish a moratorium on bonuses for Senior Executive Service employees until GSA completes a review of the bonus system and reports to the Committee on how inefficiencies will be addressed;
- Improve transparency on conferences by requiring GSA to provide reports to the Committee on conferences hosted by the Public Buildings Service;
- Strengthen oversight of GSA's budget by requiring GSA to submit a budget each year on the proposed administrative costs of the Public Buildings Service;
- Sunset Committee authorizations five years after Committee approval if GSA has not initiated the project;
- Limit the independent leasing authorities of certain agencies outside of the GSA;
- Advance oversight and transparency by requiring GSA to develop a system to track and report on actual utilization of space and require GSA and tenant agencies to provide the Committee plans for future space utilization;
- Limit project escalations in cost and scope by setting caps on how much an approved project can vary in cost and scope from the approved amounts.
- Improve transparency of the Public Buildings Service's impact on communities by requiring a report on the impact of certain Public Buildings Service activities.

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