

Public Law 103-279  
103d Congress

An Act

To amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to transfer operating responsibilities to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and for other purposes.

July 21, 1994  
[H.R. 3567]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “John F. Kennedy Center Act Amendments of 1994”.

John F.  
Kennedy  
Center Act  
Amendments of  
1994.  
20 USC 76h note.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS, BUREAU, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 1 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76h note) is amended—

(1) by striking “SECTION 1.” and inserting the following:

**“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND FINDINGS.**

“(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

“(1) the late John Fitzgerald Kennedy served with distinction as President of the United States and as a Member of the Senate and the House of Representatives;

“(2) by the untimely death of John Fitzgerald Kennedy the United States and the world have suffered a great loss;

“(3) the late John Fitzgerald Kennedy was particularly devoted to education and cultural understanding and the advancement of the performing arts;

“(4) it is fitting and proper that a living institution of the performing arts, designated as the National Center for the Performing Arts, named in the memory and honor of this great leader, shall serve as the sole national monument to his memory within the District of Columbia and its environs;

“(5) such a living memorial serves all of the people of the United States by preserving, fostering, and transmitting the performing arts traditions of the people of the United States and other countries by producing and presenting music, opera, theater, dance, and other performing arts; and

“(6) such a living memorial should be housed in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, located in the District of Columbia.”.

(b) **EX OFFICIO TRUSTEES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 76h) is amended—

(A) by striking the section heading and all that follows before "There is hereby" and inserting the following:

**"SEC. 2. BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**

**"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—"**

(B) in the first sentence, by inserting "as the National Center for the Performing Arts, a living memorial to John Fitzgerald Kennedy," after "thereof"; and

(C) in the second sentence—

(i) by striking "Chairman of the District of Columbia Recreation Board" and inserting "Superintendent of Schools of the District of Columbia"; and

(ii) by striking "three Members of the Senate" and all that follows before "ex officio" and inserting "the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the House of Representatives and 3 additional Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and 3 additional Members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate".

**(2) EFFECTIVE DATES.—**

(A) SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—The amendment made by paragraph (1)(C)(i) shall take effect on the date of expiration of the term of the Chairman of the District of Columbia Recreation Board serving as a trustee of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—The amendment made by paragraph (1)(C)(ii) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

**(c) GENERAL TRUSTEES.—**Subsection (b) of section 2 of such Act is amended to read as follows:

**"(b) GENERAL TRUSTEES.—**The general trustees shall be appointed by the President of the United States. Each trustee shall hold office as a member of the Board for a term of 6 years, except that—

"(1) any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the predecessor of the member was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of the term;

"(2) a member shall continue to serve until the successor of the member has been appointed; and

"(3) the term of office of a member appointed before the date of enactment of the John F. Kennedy Center Act Amendments of 1994 shall expire as designated at the time of appointment."

**(d) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS.—**Section 2(c) of such Act is amended—

(1) by inserting "ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS.—" before "There shall be";

(2) in the first sentence, by inserting "of the United States" after "President" the first place it appears;

20 USC 76h note.

20 USC 76h.  
President.

(3) in the fifth sentence, by striking “cultural activities to be carried on in” and inserting “cultural activities to be carried out by”; and

(4) in the last sentence, by striking all that follows “compensation” and inserting a period.

### SEC. 3. DUTIES OF THE BOARD.

Section 4 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76j) is amended by striking the section heading and all that follows through the period at the end of subsection (a) and inserting the following:

### “SEC. 4. DUTIES OF THE BOARD.

“(a) PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND GOALS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall—

“(A) present classical and contemporary music, opera, drama, dance, and other performing arts from the United States and other countries;

“(B) promote and maintain the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as the National Center for the Performing Arts—

“(i) by developing and maintaining a leadership role in national performing arts education policy and programs, including developing and presenting original and innovative performing arts and educational programs for children, youth, families, adults, and educators designed specifically to foster an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts;

“(ii) by developing and maintaining a comprehensive and broad program for national and community outreach, including establishing model programs for adaptation by other presenting and educational institutions; and

“(iii) by conducting joint initiatives with the national education and outreach programs of the Very Special Arts, an entity affiliated with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts which has an established program for the identification, development, and implementation of model programs and projects in the arts for disabled individuals;

“(C) strive to ensure that the education and outreach programs and policies of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts meet the highest level of excellence and reflect the cultural diversity of the United States;

“(D) provide facilities for other civic activities at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts;

“(E) provide within the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts a suitable memorial in honor of the late President;

“(F) develop, and update annually, a comprehensive building needs plan for the features of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in existence on the date of enactment of the John F. Kennedy Center Act Amendments of 1994;

“(G) with respect to each feature of the building and site of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts that is in existence on the date of enactment of the John F. Kennedy Center Act Amendments of 1994 (includ-

ing a theater, the garage, the plaza, or a building walkway), plan, design, and construct each capital repair, replacement, improvement, rehabilitation, alteration, or modification necessary for the feature; and

“(H) provide—

“(i) information and interpretation; and

“(ii) with respect to each feature of the building and site of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts that is in existence on the date of enactment of the John F. Kennedy Center Act Amendments of 1994 (including a theater, the garage, the plaza, or a building walkway), all necessary maintenance, repair, and alteration of, and all janitorial, security, and other services and equipment necessary for the operation of, the feature, in a manner consistent with requirements for high quality operations.

“(2) ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS AND DUTIES.—

“(A) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS.—The Board, in accordance with applicable law, may enter into contracts or other arrangements with, and make payments to, public agencies or private organizations or other private persons in order to carry out the functions of the Board under this Act. The authority described in the preceding sentence includes utilizing the services and facilities of other agencies, including the Department of the Interior, the General Services Administration, and the Smithsonian Institution.

“(B) PREPARATION OF BUDGET.—The Board shall prepare a budget pursuant to sections 1104, 1105(a), and 1513(b) of title 31, United States Code.

“(C) USE OF AGENCY PERSONNEL.—The Board may utilize or employ the services of the personnel of any agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government or the District of Columbia, with the consent of the agency or the instrumentality concerned, on a reimbursable basis, and utilize voluntary and uncompensated personnel.

“(D) SELECTION OF CONTRACTORS.—In carrying out the duties of the Board under this Act, the Board may negotiate any contract for an environmental system for, a protection system for, or a repair to, maintenance of, or restoration of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts with selected contractors and award the contract on the basis of contractor qualifications as well as price.

“(E) MAINTENANCE OF HALLS.—The Board shall maintain the Hall of Nations, the Hall of States, and the Grand Foyer of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in a manner that is suitable to a national performing arts center that is operated as a Presidential memorial and in a manner consistent with other national Presidential memorials.

“(F) MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS.—The Board shall manage and operate the grounds of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in a manner consistent with National Park Service regulations and agreements in effect on the date of enactment of the John F. Kennedy Center Act Amendments of 1994. No change in the management and operation of the grounds may be made without

the express approval of Congress and of the Secretary of the Interior.”.

**SEC. 4. OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES; REVIEW OF BOARD ACTIONS.**

(a) SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—Section 5 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76k) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and all that follows through “(a)” and inserting the following:

**“SEC. 5. POWERS OF THE BOARD.**

“(a) SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—”; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “Smithsonian Institution” and inserting “John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, as a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution,”.

(b) APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—Subsection

(b) of section 5 of such Act is amended to read as follows:

“(b) APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—

“(1) CHAIRPERSON AND SECRETARY.—The Board shall appoint and fix the compensation and duties of a Chairperson of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, who shall serve as the chief executive officer of the Center, and a Secretary of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The Chairperson and Secretary shall be well qualified by experience and training to perform the duties of their respective offices.

“(2) SENIOR LEVEL EXECUTIVE AND OTHER EMPLOYEES.—The Chairperson of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts may appoint—

“(A) a senior level executive who, by virtue of the background of the individual, shall be well suited to be responsible for facilities management and services and who may, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, be appointed and compensated with appropriated funds, except that the compensation may not exceed the maximum rate of pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code; and

“(B) such other officers and employees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as may be necessary for the efficient administration of the functions of the Board.”.

(c) TRANSFERS; REVIEW OF BOARD ACTIONS.—Section 5 of such Act is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following new subsections:

“(c) TRANSFER OF PROPERTY.—Not later than October 1, 1995, the property, liabilities, contracts, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds employed, held, used, arising from, available to, or to be made available in connection with the functions transferred from the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the amendments made by the John F. Kennedy Center Act Amendments of 1994 shall be transferred, subject to section 1531 of title 31, United States Code, to the Board as the Board and the Secretary of the Interior may determine appropriate. Unexpended funds transferred pursuant to this subsection shall be used only for the purposes for which, and subject to the terms under which, the funds were originally authorized and appropriated.

“(d) TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Employees of the National Park Service assigned to duties related to the functions being undertaken by the Board shall be transferred with their functions to the Board not later than October 1, 1995.

“(2) RIGHTS AND BENEFITS.—Transferred employees shall remain in the Federal competitive service and retain all rights and benefits provided under title 5, United States Code. For a period of not less than 3 years after the date of transfer of an employee under paragraph (1), the transferred employee shall retain the right of priority consideration under merit promotion procedures or lateral reassignment for all vacancies within the Department of the Interior.

“(3) PARK POLICE.—All United States Park Police and Park Police guard force employees assigned to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts shall remain employees of the National Park Service.

“(4) COSTS.—All usual and customary costs associated with any adverse action or grievance proceeding resulting from the transfer of functions under this section that are incurred before October 1, 1995, shall be paid from funds appropriated to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

“(5) REORGANIZATION AUTHORITY.—Nothing contained in this section shall prohibit the Board from reorganizing functions at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in accordance with laws governing reorganizations.

“(e) REVIEW OF BOARD ACTIONS.—The actions of the Board relating to performing arts and to payments made or directed to be made by the Board from any trust funds shall not be subject to review by any officer or agency other than a court of law.

“(f) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—As used in this subsection, the term ‘theatrical employee’ means a nonappropriated fund employee of the Board, who is engaged in a box office, performing, or theatrical trade that is the subject of a collective bargaining agreement as of January 1, 1994, including any change in the trade as a result of a technological advance.

“(2) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) and the Labor-Management Relations Act, 1947 (29 U.S.C. 141 et seq.)—

“(i) each theatrical employee shall be considered to be an ‘employee’ within the meaning of section 2(3) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 152(3)); and

“(ii) with respect to a theatrical employee, the Board shall be considered to be an ‘employer’ within the meaning of section 2(2) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 152(2)).

“(B) RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.—With respect to each theatrical employee, the theatrical employee and the Board shall have all of the rights and obligations specified in such Acts.”

#### SEC. 5. REVIEWS, AUDITS, AND CLAIMS.

Section 6 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 761) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by striking “its operations” and inserting “the operations of the Board”; and

(2) by striking subsections (e) and (f) and inserting the following new subsections:

“(d) **AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.**—Not less than once every 3 years, the Comptroller General shall review and audit the accounts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for the purpose of examining expenditures of funds appropriated under the authority provided by this Act.

“(e) **INSPECTOR GENERAL.**—The functions of the Board funded by funds appropriated pursuant to section 12 shall be subject to the requirements for a Federal entity under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 3). The Inspector General of the Smithsonian Institution is authorized to carry out the requirements of such Act on behalf of the Board, on a reimbursable basis when requested by the Board.

“(f) **PROPERTY AND PERSONNEL COMPENSATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Board may procure insurance against any loss in connection with the property of the Board and other assets administered by the Board. Each employee and volunteer of the Board shall be considered to be a civil employee of the United States (within the meaning of the term ‘employee’ as defined in section 8101(1) of title 5, United States Code), except that the Board shall continue to provide benefits with respect to any disability or death resulting from a personal injury to a nonappropriated fund employee of the Board sustained while in the performance of the duties of the employee for the Board pursuant to the workers compensation statute of the jurisdiction in which the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is located. The disability or death benefits referred to in the preceding sentence, whether under the workers compensation statute referred to in the preceding sentence or under chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, shall continue to be the exclusive liability of the Board and the United States with respect to all employees and volunteers of the Board.

“(2) **FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS.**—For the purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, an employee of the Board shall be considered to be an ‘employee of the government’ and the Board shall be considered to be a ‘Federal agency’. No employee of the Board may bring suit against the United States or the Board under the Federal tort claims procedure of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, for disability or death resulting from personal injury sustained while in the performance of the duties of the employee for the Board.”

#### **SEC. 6. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

Section 10 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76p) is amended—

- (1) by striking “he” and inserting “the Secretary”; and
- (2) by striking “his judgment” and inserting “the judgment of the Secretary”.

#### **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

The John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76h et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

20 USC 76r.

**“SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

“(a) **MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, AND SECURITY.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Board to carry out section 4(a)(1)(H) \$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1995 through 1999.

“(b) **CAPITAL PROJECTS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Board to carry out subparagraphs (F) and (G) of section 4(a)(1) \$9,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1995 through 1999.

“(c) **LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.**—No funds appropriated pursuant to this section may be used for any direct expense incurred in the production of a performing arts attraction, for personnel who are involved in performing arts administration (including any supply or equipment used by the personnel), or for production, staging, public relations, marketing, fundraising, ticket sales, or education. Funds appropriated directly to the Board shall not affect nor diminish other Federal funds sought for any performing arts function and may be used to reimburse the Board for that portion of costs that are Federal costs reasonably allocated to building services and theater maintenance and repair.”.

**SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

The John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76h et seq.) (as amended by section 7) is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

20 USC 76s.

**“SEC. 13. DEFINITIONS.**

“As used in this Act, the terms ‘building and site of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’ and ‘grounds of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’ refer to the site in the District of Columbia on which the John F. Kennedy Center building is constructed and that extends to the line of the west face of the west retaining walls and curbs of the Inner Loop Freeway on the east, the north face of the north retaining walls and curbs of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge approaches on the south, the east face of the east retaining walls and curbs of Rock Creek Parkway on the west, and the south curbs of New Hampshire Avenue and F Street on the north, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Transfer of John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’, numbered 844/82563, and dated April 20, 1994, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the National Capital Region, National Park Service, Department of the Interior.”.

**SEC. 9. RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

(a) **AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE.**—Section 5(a) of the Act of October 24, 1951 (65 Stat. 634; chapter 559; 40 U.S.C. 193r(a)), is amended—

(1) by striking “Institution and” and inserting “Institution,”; and

(2) by inserting “, and the Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts,” after “National Gallery of Art”.

(b) **AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND.**—Section 8 of such Act (40 U.S.C. 193u) is amended by striking “the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution or the Trustees of the National Gallery of Art or” each place it appears and inserting “the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the Trustees of the National Gallery of Art, the Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, or”.



(c) BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS DEFINED.—Section 9 of such Act (40 U.S.C. 193v) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) The site of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, which shall be held to extend to the line of the west face of the west retaining walls and curbs of the Inner Loop Freeway on the east, the north face of the north retaining walls and curbs of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge approaches on the south, the east face of the east retaining walls and curbs of Rock Creek Parkway on the west, and the south curbs of New Hampshire Avenue and F Street on the north, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Transfer of John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’, numbered 844/82563, and dated April 20, 1994, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the National Capital Region, National Park Service, Department of the Interior.”.

Approved July 21, 1994.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3567:**

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 103-453, Pt. 1 (Comm. on Public Works and Transportation) and Pt. 2 (Comm. on Natural Resources).  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 140 (1994):

May 10, considered and passed House.  
June 27, considered and passed Senate, amended.  
June 28, House concurred in Senate amendment.