

A close-up photograph of a bird's head, showing its eye and beak. The bird is looking towards the right. The background is blurred, showing a building with windows and some greenery. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

The Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act

Erik Schneider, National Audubon Society



“ In 2007, birders took me to the McCormick Place in Chicago during migratory season. I saw the new mirrored and glass buildings in the city, and I also saw dozens and dozens of beautiful songbirds lying on the ground. It was very hard to watch.

Following that, I introduced and passed legislation by the Cook County Board of Commissioners as a model for other organizations across the country. We learned what building designs work best to save birds. Now, we can incorporate these features on a larger basis. ”

Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL)



“ About two years ago, my five-year-old came up on the floor with me, and when we finished voting he said, “Daddy there’s a dead bird out on the ledge.” Just off the floor of the Representatives, there are these windows, and an Ovenbird had flown into the window of the Capitol....

...If you are constructing a new federal building, or already making major renovations to an old one, then this bill requires that you put in some bird-safe windows so you don’t have birds like that Ovenbird flying into windows and getting killed. ”

Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA)



Legislative goals for HR 2280

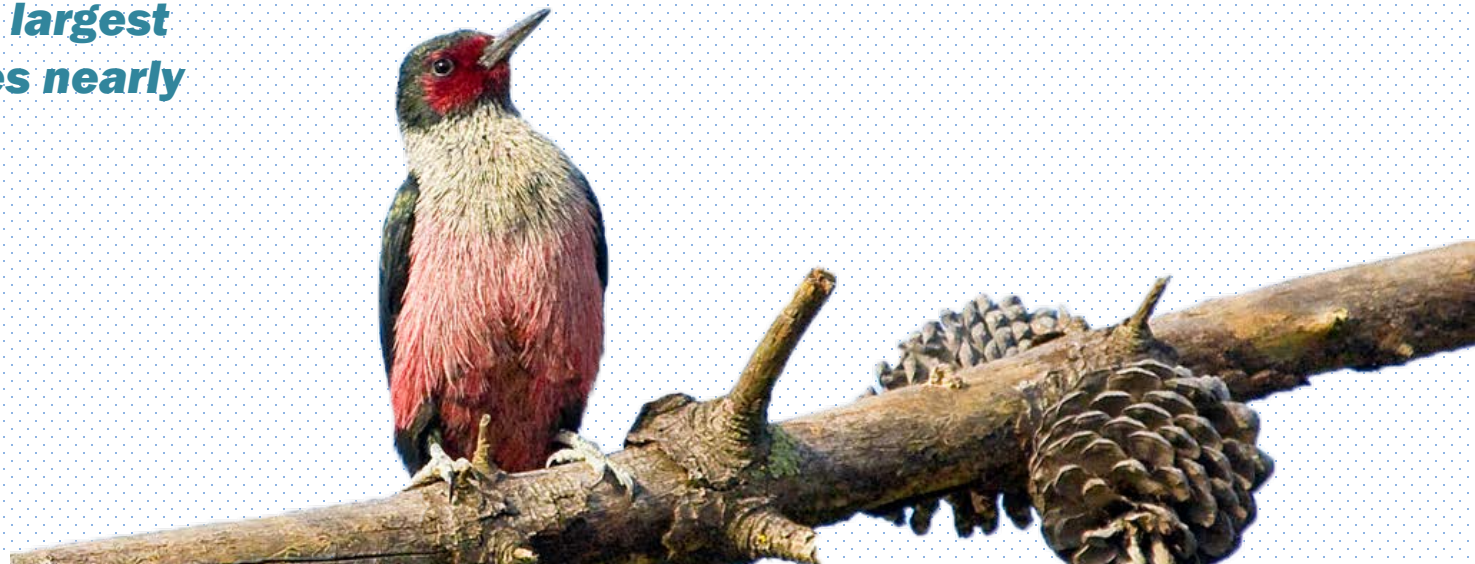
Save birds from needless deaths and injuries

Incorporate bird-friendly building materials and design into federal buildings

Based on success in Cook County, Illinois

GSA, the “nation’s largest landlord”, manages nearly 10,000 buildings

Cost neutral



The bill's provisions

Applies to:

- **New construction**
- **Major renovations**
- **Acquired buildings**

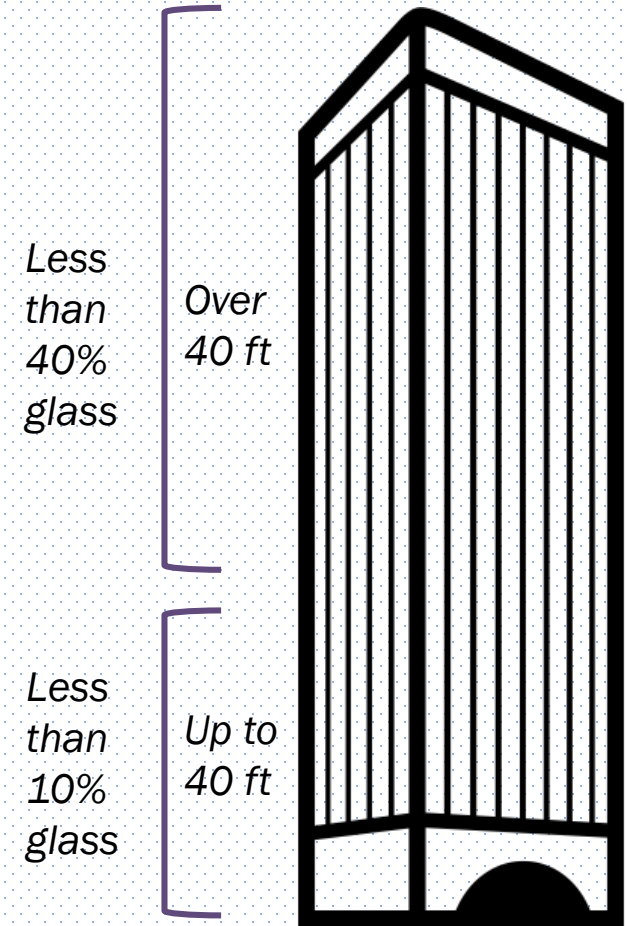
Up to 40 feet:

- **Less than 10% of exposed façade can be glass**
- **If glass is used, there must be safety features:**
 - **Shades, netting, screens**
 - **UV-reflective glass**
 - **Patterns on glass (2x4 rule)**
 - **Opaque, etched, or frosted glass**

Over 40 feet:

- **Less than 40% of exposed façade can be glass**
 - **And utilize standards above**

Exemptions: Historic buildings (U.S. Capitol, White House, etc)



Other provisions

Monitor buildings

Shield, minimize outdoor lights

Encourage automatic controls

Timers, photo sensors, infrared and motion detectors

Prevent transparent corners and passageways

Glass modifications in courtyards with water and plants



Legislative Status

Other pathways

***Transportation and
Infrastructure
Committee***

22 cosponsors

***Next step: committee
hearing***

***Appropriations bill
language***

Senate version

