A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend the Department of General Services Establishment Act of 2011, to ensure that public access to government buildings is maximized while addressing security concerns and to direct the Department of General Services to formulate rules regarding entrance by members of the public to D.C. government buildings to effectuate that policy; and to amend the Omnibus Spending Reduction Act of 1993 to allow members of the public to enter the John A. Wilson Building without showing identification or signing a log book.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Ensuring Public Access to Government Buildings Amendment Act of 2016”.

Sec. 2. The Department of General Services Establishment Act of 2011, approved September 14, 2011 (D.C. Law 19-21; D.C. Official Code § 10-551.01 et. seq.) is amended by adding a new section 1032 to read as follows:

“Sec. 1032. Public entry into government buildings.

(a) The Department of General Services shall ensure that members of the public have maximum access to government buildings; provided that reasonable restrictions on the public’s access to certain workspaces or buildings may be implemented to ensure security and control of government resources and information.

(b) (1) Within 270 days of the effective date of this act, the Department of General Services shall promulgate rules for ensuring that members of the public have access to District
government buildings consistent with subsection (a) of this section. Such rules shall require
justification for limits on public access to buildings, or parts of buildings, which are regularly
visited by members of the public for routine governmental needs. Impediments to access, such as
showing a photo ID or signing a log book, shall not be used unless the agency shows the need for
such a policy.

(2) In promulgating these rules, the Department of General Services shall evaluate
similar regulations and policies established by state, county, and local governments that have
facilitated public access to government buildings while ensuring appropriate security.”

Sec. 3. Section 601 of the Omnibus Spending Reduction Act of 1993, effective
November 25, 1993 (D.C. Law 10-65; D.C. Official Code § 10-1301) is amended by adding a
new subsection (e) to read as follows:

“(e) Members of the public shall be allowed to enter the John A. Wilson building without
providing a form of identification or signing a log book; provided, that the Secretary of the
Council may establish policies regarding hours of public entrance and require reasonable and
justified security procedures for entrance into the building.”

Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.
The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,

Sec. 5. Effective date.
This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.