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1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
104-43

CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI, BATTLEFIELD ACT OF 1995

APRIL 7 (legislative day, April 5), 1995.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 610]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 610) to provide for an interpretive center at the Civil War Battlefield of Corinth, Mississippi, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

The purpose of S. 610, as ordered reported, is to direct the Secretary of the Interior to construct and operate an interpretive center in the vicinity of the Corinth Civil War battlefield in Mississippi.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

The city of Corinth, Mississippi, situated near the Mississippi-Tennessee border, occupied a strategic role during the Civil War. As the junction of the Confederacy's main north-south and east-west railroads, possession of Corinth was crucial in maintaining or destroying the transportation infrastructure of the Confederacy.

Following a hard-fought Union victory in Shiloh, Mississippi in April 1862, the Confederate army under the command of General P.G.T. Beauregard retreated to Corinth. They were pursued by a combined 100,000 Union troops under the command of Major General Henry "Old Brains" Halleck. The Confederate army also poured reserves into Corinth, with over 70,000 soldiers in place by early May.

Instead of directly attacking, the Union army slowly prepared to lay siege to the city, advancing only five miles in three weeks. Meanwhile, the southern troops, many of whom were seriously injured in the Shiloh battle, were being devastated by disease. As the city's water supply became contaminated, thousands of Confederate soldiers became ill from typhoid or dysentery. As the prospect of tremendous casualties resulting from a siege became more likely, the Confederates abandoned Corinth on May 25, 1862.

In October of 1862, 22,000 Confederate men under the command of Major General Earl Van Dorn attempted to retake Corinth. After two days of intense fighting, however, the Confederates were forced to abandon their attack.

The various sites associated with the siege and battle of Corinth were designated as a National Historic Landmark in May 1991. The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's report identifies the site of the October 1862 battle as a "Priority 1" battlefield. (A Priority 1 battlefield is one with "critical need for coordinated nationwide action by the year 2000." The site of the October battle is rated as having good or fair integrity, with high or moderate threats from development.) The Corinth siege site is rated as a Priority 4 battlefield (a fragmented battlefield with poor integrity). However, the report notes that the Corinth siege represents a "Class A" military battle one that "has a decisive impact on a military campaign and a direct impact on the course of the war."

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 610 was introduced by Senator Lott on March 23, 1995.

In the 103d Congress, similar legislation, S. 986, was introduced on May 19, 1993. The Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests held a hearing on S. 986 on September 21, 1993. At the business meeting on November 10, 1993, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported S. 986. The Senate passed S. 986 with amendments on November 11, 1993. The House passed a similar measure on October 5, 1994, as part of another bill, but no further action was taken in the Senate.

At the business meeting on March 29, 1995, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered S. 610 favorably reported, without amendment.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND TABULATION OF VOTES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on March 29, 1995, by a unanimous vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass S. 610 without amendment.

The roll call vote on reporting the measure was 20 yeas, 0 nays, as follows:

YEAS	NAYS
Mr. Murkowski	
Mr. Hatfield ¹	
Mr. Domenici	
Mr. Nickles ¹	
Mr. Craig	
Mr. Campbell ¹	

Mr. Thomas ¹
Mr. Kyl ¹
Mr. Grams
Mr. Jeffords ¹
Mr. Burns ¹
Mr. Johnston
Mr. Bumpers
Mr. Ford
Mr. Bradley
Mr. Bingaman
Mr. Akaka
Mr. Wellstone ¹
Mr. Heflin ¹
Mr. Dorgan

¹ Indicates voted by proxy.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1 entitles the bill the “Corinth, Mississippi, Battlefield Act of 1995.”

Section 2 contains the Congressional findings and purpose.

Section 3(a) directs the Secretary of the Interior to acquire by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, such lands and interests therein the vicinity of the Corinth Battlefield, Mississippi, that the Secretary determines to be necessary for the construction of a visitor center to commemorate and interpret the 1862 Civil War siege and battle of Corinth.

Section (b) provides that lands and interests therein owned by the State of Mississippi or a political subdivision thereof may only be acquired by donation.

Section 4(a) directs the Secretary to construct, operate, and maintain on the lands acquired under section 3, a center for the interpretation of the Siege and Battle of Corinth, and associated historical events.

Subsection (b) authorizes the Secretary to mark sites associated with the battle on lands protected by State or local governments.

Subsection (c) provides that the lands and center are to be administered by the Secretary as part of Shiloh National Military Park.

Section 5 authorizes the appropriation of such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act, with a limitation of not more than \$6 million to be expended on the construction of the visitor center.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The following estimate of costs of this measure has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, April 5, 1995.

Hon. FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 610, the Corinth, Mississippi, Battlefield Act of 1995.

Enactment of S. 610 would not affect direct spending or receipts. Therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply to the bill.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. BLUM
(For June E. O'Neill, *Director*).

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

1. Bill number: S. 610.
2. Bill title: Corinth, Mississippi, Battlefield Act of 1995.
3. Bill status: As ordered by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on March 29, 1995.
4. Bill purpose: S. 610 would direct the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire property in the vicinity of the Corinth Battlefield, Mississippi, by donation, purchase, or exchange. On the acquired property, the NPS would construct, operate, and maintain an interpretive center of approximately 5,300 square feet. The new lands and facilities would be managed by the agency as part of the Shiloh National Military Park. Section 5 of the bill would authorize the appropriation of whatever sums are necessary to carry out these provisions, provided that no more than \$6 million may be used for construction of the interpretive center.

5. Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The following table summarizes CBO's estimate of the costs of implementing S. 610. For purposes of this estimate, CBO has assumed that S. 610 will be enacted late in fiscal year 1995 and that the full amounts estimated to be necessary will be appropriated as required for the project.

[By fiscal year, in millions of dollars]

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Authorization of appropriations	6.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3
Estimated outlays9	1.9	1.7	1.5	.9

The costs of this bill fall within budget function 300.

For 1996, \$6 million is authorized for project development. Authorization levels in subsequent years include funds needed to equip, manage, and operate the new facility. Based on information provided by the NPS, CBO expects that the site needed for the new center would be donated by the city of Corinth; therefore, the federal government would incur no land acquisition costs. Outlays have been estimated on the basis of spending for similar projects.

6. Comparison with spending under current law: None.
7. Pay-as-you-go considerations: None.
8. Estimated cost to State and local governments: None.
9. Estimate comparison: None.
10. Previous CBO estimate: None.
11. Estimate prepared by: Deborah Reis.
12. Estimate approved by: Robert A. Sunshine for Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out S. 610. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of S. 610, as ordered reported.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

On March 24, 1995, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources requested legislative reports from the Department of the Interior and the Office of Management and Budget setting forth Executive agency recommendations on S. 610. These reports had not been received at the time the report on S. 610 was filed. When these reports become available, the chairman will request that they be printed in the Congressional Record for the advice of the Senate.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by the Act S. 610, as ordered reported.