

Calendar No. 465

105TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
{ 105-245

LITTLE ROCK NINE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL ACT

JULY 10, 1998.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. D'AMATO, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1283]

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs (“Committee”) to which was referred the bill (S. 1283) to provide for the award of congressional gold medals to Jean Brown Trickey, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, and Jefferson Thomas, collectively known as the “Little Rock Nine” and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

INTRODUCTION

On June 26, 1998, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs met in legislative session and marked up and ordered to be reported S. 1283, a bill to provide for the award of congressional gold medals to each of the “Little Rock Nine,” to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and for other purposes, with one amendment. The Committee’s action was taken by voice vote.

HISTORY OF THE LEGISLATION

The Little Rock Nine congressional gold medal bill, S. 1283, was introduced on October 9, 1997 by Senators Bumpers, Moseley-Braun and Hutchinson. The legislation is identical to H.R. 2560, the Little Rock Nine congressional gold medal bill. S. 1283 has two purposes: first it authorizes the President, on behalf of Congress to present the medals to each of the Little Rock Nine; and second, it authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to strike and sell bronze

duplicates of the gold medals to recoup the production cost of the nine gold medals.

There were no Committee hearings held on S. 1283. At the Committee mark up on June 26, 1998, the Committee adopted one amendment to S. 1283 to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to make available for sale to the public, all inventory in stock as of, and no later than July 1, 1998, of the Jackie Robinson Commemorative Coin program.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

The bill reported by the Committee would authorize the President to present nine congressional gold medals, one to each of the group known as the “Little Rock Nine,” in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. The bill also authorizes the appropriate amount of funds that may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the bill. Furthermore, the bill authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to strike and sell duplicates of each medal in bronze at a price sufficient to cover the cost of production of the gold medals.

The Committee recognizes that the primary purpose of this bill is to commemorate the bravery and pioneering spirit of these nine individuals from Little Rock, Arkansas. The Committee also recognizes the primary purpose of the amendment to this bill is to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in professional sports through the continued issuance of gold and silver coins from the Jackie Robinson Commemorative Coin program collection.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LITTLE ROCK NINE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL BILL

Section 1. Findings

Section 1 provides six findings as follows: Jean Brown Trickey, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, and Jefferson Thomas, collectively known as the “Little Rock Nine,” voluntarily subjected themselves to racial bigotry; that the Little Rock Nine are civil rights pioneers whose selfless acts considerably advanced the civil rights debate in this country; that the Little Rock Nine risked their lives during the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas; that the Little Rock Nine sacrificed their innocence to protect the American principle—“one nation, under God, indivisible”; that the Little Rock Nine have left their mark on America’s history; and that the Little Rock Nine have continued to work toward equality for all Americans.

Section 2. Congressional gold medals

Section 2 provides that the President is authorized to present, on behalf of Congress, gold medals of appropriate design to each of the Little Rock Nine in recognition of their selfless heroism. This section authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions for each recipient.

Appropriation of the sum necessary to carry out this section is to be authorized as of the date of introduction of this Act.

Section 3. Duplicate medals

Section 3 provides that the Secretary of the Treasury may strike bronze duplicates of the gold medals in this Act and sell these duplicates at a price sufficient to cover the cost of production of the bronze duplicates and the gold medals. The proceeds from the sale of the bronze duplicates shall be used to reimburse the appropriation authorized in Section 2.

Section 4. National medals

The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

Section 5. Commemorative coins

Section 5 amends Section 101(7)(D) of the United States Commemorative Coin Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–329, 110 Stat. 4009). In this section, the Secretary of the Treasury may not mint coins in this program after July 1, 1998 and may not issue coins minted in this program after December 31, 1998. The effective date of this section is on the date of enactment of the United States Commemorative Coin Act of 1996.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION (CBO REPORT)

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 11(b) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Impoundment and Control Act, require that each committee report on a bill contain a statement estimating the cost of the proposed legislation, which was prepared by the Congressional Budget Office. This statement has been requested from the Congressional Budget Office, but was not available at the date of filing this report. When the information is made available to the Committee, it will be placed in the Congressional Record.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW (CORDON RULE)

In the opinion of the Committee, it is necessary to dispense with the requirements of paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate in order to expedite the business of the Senate.

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

In the opinion of the Committee, this legislation will have no regulatory impact.