

Union Calendar No. 422

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2919

[Report No. 106-741]

To promote preservation and public awareness of the history of the Underground Railroad by providing financial assistance, to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 22, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. REGULA, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. GILCREST, and Mr. HILL of Indiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

JULY 17, 2000

Additional sponsors: Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. OXLEY, Ms. Lee, Mr. SAWYER, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. KINGSTON

JULY 17, 2000

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on September 22, 1999]

A BILL

To promote preservation and public awareness of the history of the Underground Railroad by providing financial assistance, to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “National Underground*
5 *Railroad Freedom Center Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 *(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—*

8 *(1) the National Underground Railroad Freedom*
9 *Center (hereinafter “Freedom Center”) is a nonprofit*
10 *organization incorporated under the laws of the State*
11 *of Ohio in 1995;*

12 *(2) the objectives of the Freedom Center are to*
13 *interpret the history of the Underground Railroad*
14 *through development of a national cultural institu-*
15 *tion in Cincinnati, Ohio, that will house an interpre-*
16 *tive center, including museum, educational, and re-*
17 *search facilities, all dedicated to communicating to*
18 *the public the importance of the quest for human free-*
19 *dom which provided the foundation for the historic*
20 *and inspiring story of the Underground Railroad;*

21 *(3) the city of Cincinnati has granted exclusive*
22 *development rights for a prime riverfront location to*
23 *the Freedom Center;*

24 *(4) the Freedom Center will be a national center*
25 *linked through state-of-the-art technology to Under-*

1 *ground Railroad sites and facilities throughout the*
2 *United States and to a constituency that reaches*
3 *across the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Carib-*
4 *bean and beyond; and*

5 *(5) the Freedom Center has reached an agree-*
6 *ment with the National Park Service to pursue a*
7 *range of historical and educational cooperative activi-*
8 *ties related to the Underground Railroad, including*
9 *but not limited to assisting the National Park Service*
10 *in the implementation of the National Underground*
11 *Railroad Network to Freedom Act.*

12 *(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—*

13 *(1) to promote preservation and public aware-*
14 *ness of the history of the Underground Railroad;*

15 *(2) to assist the Freedom Center in the develop-*
16 *ment of its programs and facilities in Cincinnati,*
17 *Ohio; and*

18 *(3) to assist the National Park Service in the*
19 *implementation of the National Underground Rail-*
20 *road Network to Freedom Act (16 U.S.C. 469l).*

21 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

22 *In this Act:*

23 *(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means*
24 *the Secretary of the Interior.*

1 (2) *PROJECT BUDGET.*—The term “project bud-
2 *get*” means the total amount of funds expended by the
3 *Freedom Center on construction of its facility, devel-*
4 *opment of its programs and exhibits, research, collec-*
5 *tion of informative and educational activities related*
6 *to the history of the Underground Railroad, and any*
7 *administrative activities necessary to the operation of*
8 *the Freedom Center, prior to the opening of the Free-*
9 *dom Center facility in Cincinnati, Ohio.*

10 (3) *FEDERAL SHARE.*—The term “Federal share”
11 *means an amount not to exceed 20 percent of the*
12 *project budget and shall include all amounts received*
13 *from the Federal Government under this legislation*
14 *and any other Federal programs.*

15 (4) *NON-FEDERAL SHARE.*—The term “non-Fed-
16 *eral share*” means all amounts obtained by the Free-
17 *dom Center for the implementation of its facilities*
18 *and programs from any source other than the Federal*
19 *Government, and shall not be less than 80 percent of*
20 *the project budget.*

21 (5) *THE FREEDOM CENTER FACILITY.*—The term
22 *“the Freedom Center facility” means the facility, in-*
23 *cluding the building and surrounding site, which will*
24 *house the museum and research institute to be con-*

1 *structed and developed in Cincinnati, Ohio, on the*
2 *site described in section 4(c).*

3 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) *PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.*—*From sums appro-*
5 *priated pursuant to the authority of subsection (d) in any*
6 *fiscal year, the Secretary is authorized and directed to pro-*
7 *vide financial assistance to the Freedom Center, in order*
8 *to pay the Federal share of the cost of authorized activities*
9 *described in section 5.*

10 (b) *EXPENDITURE ON NON-FEDERAL PROPERTY.*—*The*
11 *Secretary is authorized to expend appropriated funds under*
12 *subsection (a) of this section to assist in the construction*
13 *of the Freedom Center facility and the development of pro-*
14 *grams and exhibits for that facility which will be funded*
15 *primarily through private and non-Federal funds, on prop-*
16 *erty owned by the city of Cincinnati, Hamilton County,*
17 *and the State of Ohio.*

18 (c) *DESCRIPTION OF THE FREEDOM CENTER FACILITY*
19 *SITE.*—*The facility referred to in subsections (a) and (b)*
20 *will be located on a site described as follows: a 2-block area*
21 *south of new South Second, west of Walnut Street, north*
22 *of relocated Theodore M. Berry Way, and east of Vine Street*
23 *in Cincinnati, Ohio.*

24 (d) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There are*
25 *authorized to be appropriated \$16,000,000 for the 4 fiscal*

1 *year period beginning October 1, 1999. Funds not to exceed*
2 *that total amount may be appropriated in 1 or more of*
3 *such fiscal years. Funds shall not be disbursed until the*
4 *Freedom Center has commitments for a minimum of 50*
5 *percent of the non-Federal share.*

6 (e) *AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any*
7 *other provision of law, funds appropriated to carry out the*
8 *provisions of this Act shall remain available for obligation*
9 *and expenditure until the end of the fiscal year succeeding*
10 *the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated.*

11 (f) *OTHER PROVISIONS.—Any grant made under this*
12 *Act shall provide that—*

13 (1) *no change or alteration may be made in the*
14 *Freedom Center facility except with the agreement of*
15 *the property owner and the Secretary;*

16 (2) *the Secretary shall have the right of access at*
17 *reasonable times to the public portions of the Freedom*
18 *Center facility for interpretive and other purposes;*
19 *and*

20 (3) *conversion, use, or disposal of the Freedom*
21 *Center facility for purposes contrary to the purposes*
22 *of this Act, as determined by the Secretary, shall re-*
23 *sult in a right of the United States to compensation*
24 *equal to the greater of—*

1 (A) all Federal funds made available to the
2 grantee under this Act; or

3 (B) the proportion of the increased value of
4 the Freedom Center facility attributable to such
5 funds, as determined at the time of such conver-
6 sion, use, or disposal.

7 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**

8 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Freedom Center may engage
9 in any activity related to its objectives addressed in section
10 2(a), including, but not limited to, construction of the Free-
11 dom Center facility, development of programs and exhibits
12 related to the history of the Underground Railroad, re-
13 search, collection of information and artifacts and edu-
14 cational activities related to the history of the Underground
15 Railroad, and any administrative activities necessary to
16 the operation of the Freedom Center.

17 (b) *PRIORITIES.*—The Freedom Center shall give pri-
18 ority to—

19 (1) construction of the Freedom Center facility;

20 (2) development of programs and exhibits to be
21 presented in or from the Freedom Center facility; and

22 (3) providing assistance to the National Park
23 Service in the implementation of the National Under-
24 ground Railroad Network to Freedom Act (16 U.S.C.
25 469l).

1 **SEC. 6. APPLICATION.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Freedom Center shall submit*
3 *an application to the Secretary at such time, in such man-*
4 *ner, and containing or accompanied by such information*
5 *as the Secretary may reasonably require. Each application*
6 *shall—*

7 (1) *describe the activities for which assistance is*
8 *sought;*

9 (2) *provide assurances that the non-Federal*
10 *share of the cost of activities of the Freedom Center*
11 *shall be paid from non-Federal sources, together with*
12 *an accounting of costs expended by the Freedom Cen-*
13 *ter to date, a budget of costs to be incurred prior to*
14 *the opening of the Freedom Center facility, an ac-*
15 *counting of funds raised to date, both Federal and*
16 *non-Federal, and a projection of funds to be raised*
17 *through the completion of the Freedom Center facility.*

18 (b) *APPROVAL.*—*The Secretary shall approve the ap-*
19 *plication submitted pursuant to subsection (a) unless such*
20 *application fails to comply with the provisions of this Act.*

21 **SEC. 7. REPORTS.**

22 *The Freedom Center shall submit an annual report to*
23 *the appropriate committees of the Congress not later than*
24 *January 31, 2000, and each succeeding year thereafter for*
25 *any fiscal year in which Federal funds are expended pursu-*
26 *ant to this Act. The report shall—*

1 (1) include a financial statement addressing the
2 *Freedom Center's costs incurred to date and projected*
3 *costs, and funds raised to date and projected fund-*
4 *raising goals;*

5 (2) include a comprehensive and detailed de-
6 *scription of the Freedom Center's activities for the*
7 *preceding and succeeding fiscal years; and*

8 (3) include a description of the activities taken
9 *to assure compliance with this Act.*

10 **SEC. 8. AMENDMENT TO THE NATIONAL UNDERGROUND**
11 **RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM ACT OF**
12 **1998.**

13 *The National Underground Railroad Network to Free-*
14 *dom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–203) is amended by add-*
15 *ing at the end the following:*

16 **“SEC. 4. PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC SITES OR STRUC-**
17 **TURES.**

18 “(a) *AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.—The Secretary*
19 *of the Interior may make grants, in accordance with this*
20 *section, to historic sites or structures associated with the*
21 *Underground Railroad for the preservation and restoration*
22 *of buildings or structures listed on, or eligible for listing*
23 *on, the National Register of Historic Places.*

24 “(b) *GRANT CONDITIONS.—Any grant made under this*
25 *section shall provide that—*

1 “(1) no change or alteration may be made in
2 property for which the grant is used except with the
3 agreement of the property owner and the Secretary;

4 “(2) the Secretary shall have the right of access
5 at reasonable times to the public portions of such
6 property for interpretive and other purposes; and

7 “(3) conversion, use, or disposal of such property
8 for purposes contrary to the purposes of this Act, as
9 determined by the Secretary, shall result in a right of
10 the United States to compensation equal to all Fed-
11 eral funds made available to the grantee under this
12 Act.

13 “(c) *MATCHING REQUIREMENT.*—The Secretary may
14 obligate funds made available for a grant under this section
15 only if the grantee agrees to match, from funds derived from
16 non-Federal sources, the amount of the grant with an
17 amount that is equal to or greater than the grant. The Sec-
18 retary may waive the requirement of the preceding sentence
19 with respect to a grant if the Secretary determines that an
20 extreme emergency exists or that such a waiver is in the
21 public interest to assure the preservation of historically sig-
22 nificant resources.

23 “(d) *FUNDING.*—There are authorized to be appro-
24 priated to the Secretary for purposes of this section
25 \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2001 and each subsequent fiscal

1 *year. Amounts authorized but not appropriated in a fiscal*
2 *year shall be available for appropriation in subsequent fis-*
3 *cal years.”.*

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