

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 431

To establish a program to award grants to improve and maintain sites honoring Presidents of the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

Mr. DEWINE (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish a program to award grants to improve and maintain sites honoring Presidents of the United States.

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 “Presidential Sites Im-

5 provement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) there are many sites honoring Presidents lo-

9 cated throughout the United States, including Presi-

1 dential birthplaces, homes, museums, burial sites,
2 and tombs;

3 (2) most of the sites are owned, operated, and
4 maintained by non-Federal entities such as State
5 and local agencies, family foundations, colleges and
6 universities, libraries, historical societies, historic
7 preservation organizations, and other nonprofit orga-
8 nizations;

9 (3) Presidential sites are often expensive to
10 maintain;

11 (4) many Presidential sites are in need of cap-
12 ital, technological, and interpretive display improve-
13 ments for which funding is insufficient or unavail-
14 able; and

15 (5) to promote understanding of the history of
16 the United States by recognizing and preserving his-
17 toric sites linked to Presidents of the United States,
18 the Federal Government should provide grants for
19 the maintenance and improvement of Presidential
20 sites.

21 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) GRANT COMMISSION.—The term “Grant
24 Commission” means the Presidential Site Grant
25 Commission established by section 4(d).

1 (2) **PRESIDENTIAL SITE.**—The term “Presi-
2 dential site” means a site that is—

3 (A) related to a President of the United
4 States;

5 (B) of national significance;

6 (C) managed, maintained, and operated
7 for, and is accessible to, the public; and

8 (D) owned or operated by—

9 (i) a State; or

10 (ii) a private institution, organization,
11 or person.

12 (3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
14 rector of the National Park Service.

15 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR PRESIDENTIAL SITES.**

16 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall award grants
17 for major maintenance and improvement projects at Presi-
18 dential sites to owners or operators of Presidential sites
19 in accordance with this section.

20 (b) **USE OF GRANT FUNDS.**—

21 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—A grant awarded under this
22 section may be used for—

23 (A) repairs or capital improvements at a
24 Presidential site (including new construction for
25 necessary modernization) such as—

1 (i) installation or repair of heating or
2 air conditioning systems, security systems,
3 or electric service; or

4 (ii) modifications at a Presidential site
5 to achieve compliance with requirements
6 under titles II and III of the Americans
7 with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
8 12131 et seq.); and

9 (B) interpretive improvements to enhance
10 public understanding and enjoyment of a Presi-
11 dential site.

12 (2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds made
14 available to award grants under this Act—

15 (i) 15 percent shall be used for emer-
16 gency projects, as determined by the Sec-
17 retary;

18 (ii) 65 percent shall be used for
19 grants for Presidential sites with—

20 (I) a 3-year average annual oper-
21 ating budget of less than \$700,000
22 (not including the amount of any
23 grant received under this section); and

1 (II) an endowment in an amount
 2 that is less than 3 times the annual
 3 operating budget of the site; and

4 (iii) 20 percent shall be used for
 5 grants for Presidential sites with—

6 (I) an annual operating budget of
 7 \$700,000 or more (not including the
 8 amount of any grant received under
 9 this section); and

10 (II) an endowment in an amount
 11 that is equal to or more than 3 times
 12 the annual operating budget of the
 13 site.

14 (B) UNEXPENDED FUNDS.—If any funds
 15 allocated for a category of projects described in
 16 subparagraph (A) are unexpended, the Sec-
 17 retary may use the funds to award grants for
 18 another category of projects described in that
 19 subparagraph.

20 (c) APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCEDURE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than a date to be
 22 determined by the Secretary, an owner or operator
 23 of a Presidential site may submit to the Secretary
 24 an application for a grant under this section.

25 (2) INVOLVEMENT OF GRANT COMMISSION.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
2 forward each application received under para-
3 graph (1) to the Grant Commission.

4 (B) CONSIDERATION BY GRANT COMMIS-
5 SION.—Not later than 60 days after receiving
6 an application from the Secretary under sub-
7 paragraph (A), the Grant Commission shall re-
8 turn the application to the Secretary with a rec-
9 ommendation of whether the proposed project
10 should be awarded a Presidential site grant.

11 (C) RECOMMENDATION OF GRANT COMMIS-
12 SION.—In making a decision to award a Presi-
13 dential site grant under this section, the Sec-
14 retary shall take into consideration any rec-
15 ommendation of the Grant Commission.

16 (3) AWARD.—Not later than 180 days after re-
17 ceiving an application for a Presidential site grant
18 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

19 (A) award a Presidential site grant to the
20 applicant; or

21 (B) notify the applicant, in writing, of the
22 decision of the Secretary not to award a Presi-
23 dential site grant.

24 (4) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of
2 the cost of a project at a Presidential site for
3 which a grant is awarded under this section
4 shall not exceed 50 percent.

5 (B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Fed-
6 eral share of the cost of a project at a Presi-
7 dential site for which a grant is awarded under
8 this section may be provided in cash or in kind.

9 (d) PRESIDENTIAL SITE GRANT COMMISSION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established the
11 Presidential Site Grant Commission.

12 (2) COMPOSITION.—The Grant Commission
13 shall be composed of—

14 (A) the Director of the National Park
15 Service; and

16 (B) 4 members appointed by the Secretary
17 as follows:

18 (i) A State historic preservation offi-
19 cer.

20 (ii) A representative of the National
21 Trust for Historic Preservation.

22 (iii) A representative of a site de-
23 scribed in subsection (b)(2)(A)(ii).

24 (iv) A representative of a site de-
25 scribed in subsection (b)(2)(A)(iii).

1 (3) TERM.—A member of the Grant Commis-
2 sion shall serve a term of 2 years.

3 (4) DUTIES.—The Grant Commission shall—

4 (A) review applications for Presidential site
5 grants received under subsection (c); and

6 (B) recommend to the Secretary projects
7 for which Presidential site grants should be
8 awarded.

9 (5) INELIGIBILITY OF SITES DURING TERM OF
10 REPRESENTATIVE.—A site described in clause (iii)
11 or (iv) of paragraph (2)(B) shall be ineligible for a
12 grant under this Act during the 2-year period in
13 which a representative of the site serves on the
14 Grant Commission.

15 (6) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACa.—The Grant
16 Commission shall not be subject to the Federal Advi-
17 sory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

18 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
20 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010,
21 to remain available until expended.

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