

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 390

To require the establishment of a national database in the National Archives to preserve records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction and to provide grants to State and local entities to establish similar local databases.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 10, 2007

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Ms. BORDALLO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## A BILL

To require the establishment of a national database in the National Archives to preserve records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction and to provide grants to State and local entities to establish similar local databases.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Preservation of  
3 Records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post-Civil War  
4 Reconstruction Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL DATABASE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Archivist of the United  
7 States shall preserve relevant records and establish, as  
8 part of the National Archives, an electronically searchable  
9 national database consisting of historic records of ser-  
10 vitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction,  
11 including the Southern Claims Commission Records,  
12 Records of the Freedmen’s Bank, Slave Impressments  
13 Records, Slave Payroll Records, Slave Manifest, and oth-  
14 ers, contained within the agencies and departments of the  
15 Federal Government to assist African Americans and oth-  
16 ers in conducting genealogical and historical research.

17 (b) MAINTENANCE.—The database established under  
18 this section shall be maintained by the National Archives  
19 or an entity within the National Archives designated by  
20 the Archivist.

21 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE AND**  
22 **LOCAL DATABASES.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Historical Publica-  
24 tions and Records Commission of the National Archives  
25 shall provide grants to States, colleges and universities,  
26 and genealogical associations to preserve records and es-

1 tablish electronically searchable databases consisting of  
2 local records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil  
3 War reconstruction.

4 (b) MAINTENANCE.—The databases established using  
5 grants provided under this section shall be maintained by  
6 appropriate agencies or institutions designated by the Na-  
7 tional Historical Publications and Records Commission.

8 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There are authorized to be appropriated—

10 (1) \$5,000,000 to implement section 2; and

11 (2) \$5,000,000 to provide grants under section

12 3.

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