

NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY LAND CONVEYANCE ACT OF
2013

SEPTEMBER 10, 2013.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Natural
Resources, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 304]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (S. 304) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Mississippi 2 parcels of surplus land within the boundary of the Natchez Trace Parkway, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of S. 304 is to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Mississippi two parcels of surplus land within the boundary of the Natchez Trace Parkway.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The Natchez Trace Parkway extends 444 miles from Nashville, Tennessee, through the northwestern corner of Alabama, to Natchez, Mississippi. Congress authorized construction of the Natchez Trace Parkway and designated it as a unit of the National Park System in 1938.

The southern terminus in Natchez, Mississippi, was the final section of the Parkway constructed and completed in 2005. For years prior to its completion, it was uncertain where the Parkway would terminate. The State of Mississippi acquired and donated two different parcels of land to the National Park Service (NPS) to accommodate a variety of possible construction alternatives. After the

Parkway's completion, the land acquired for those alternate termination points remained unused by NPS.

The unused property includes two parcels: the Bean field and the Feltus property, 38 and 29 acres respectively. The City of Natchez wishes to develop the Bean field parcel as a recreational complex, and NPS seeks to return the unused parcels back to the State.

S. 304 would authorize the transfer of 67 acres of identified unused Federal land back to the State, and adjust the boundary of the Parkway to exclude the conveyed land and include 10 acres of lands already managed by NPS.

COMMITTEE ACTION

S. 304 was introduced on February 13, 2013, by Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS). On June 19, 2013, the bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent without amendment. The bill was then referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation. On July 19, 2013, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On July 24, 2013, the full Resources Committee met to consider S. 304. The Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation was discharged by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered and the bill was adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(2)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

S. 304—Natchez Trace Parkway Land Conveyance Act of 2013

S. 304 would require the National Park Service (NPS) to convey about 67 acres of property in the Natchez Trace Parkway to the state of Mississippi. The legislation also would adjust the boundaries of the parkway to include 10 additional acres. Based on information provided by NPS, CBO estimates that implementing the act would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting S. 304 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 304 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

On March 27, 2013, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 304, the Natchez Trace Parkway Land Conveyance Act of 2013, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on March 14, 2013. The two versions of the legislation are identical, and the CBO cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Martin von Gnechten. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

2. Section 308(a) of Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures. Based on information provided by NPS, CBO estimates that implementing the act would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Mississippi two parcels of surplus land within the boundary of the Natchez Trace Parkway.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

COMPLIANCE WITH H. RES. 5

Directed Rule Making. The Chairman does not believe that this bill directs any executive branch official to conduct any specific rule-making proceedings.

Duplication of Existing Programs. This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111-139 or identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95-220, as amended by Public Law 98-169) as relating to other programs.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.

