

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3683

To amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 5, 2015

Mr. CLAY (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOYER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. TURNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network, and for other purposes.

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 “African American Civil
3 Rights Network Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

6 (1) the African American civil rights movement
7 includes historic events, court decisions, and legisla-
8 tion, the goals of which were—

9 (A) to end segregation based upon race;

10 (B) to end discrimination against African
11 Americans; and

12 (C) to ensure that African American citi-
13 zens could exercise their basic constitutional
14 rights, including the right to vote;

15 (2) the civil rights movement—

16 (A) helped bridge the divides of race, reli-
17 gion, sectional differences, and nationality;

18 (B) spanned State lines; and

19 (C) joined the ideals of liberty and freedom
20 expressed in the Declaration of Independence,
21 the Constitution, and the Civil Rights Act of
22 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.) to the extraor-
23 dinary actions of ordinary men and women
24 working in common purpose for equal rights;

25 (3) the National Park Service and Organization
26 of American Historians conducted a theme study

1 that identified and interpreted sites related to the
2 Civil Rights movement (Public Law 106–113, Ap-
3 pendix C, “The National Park System New Area of
4 Study Act of 2000” [s. 1349]);

5 (4) in conducting the theme study referred to in
6 paragraph (3), the National Park Service and the
7 Organization of American Historians found that—

8 (A) although many sites relating to the Af-
9 rican American civil rights movement have been
10 identified and recognized in existing National
11 Park System units—

12 (i) a number of sites relating to the
13 African American civil rights movement
14 have not been recognized;

15 (ii) many sites relating to the African
16 American civil rights movement are in im-
17 minent danger of being lost or destroyed;
18 and

19 (iii) many important resource types
20 relating to the African American civil
21 rights movement are not adequately rep-
22 resented and protected;

23 (B) there are many important sites relat-
24 ing to the African American civil rights move-
25 ment that have high potential for preservation

1 and visitor use in a number of States, the Dis-
2 trict of Columbia, and territories of the United
3 States;

4 (C) no single site completely reflects and
5 characterizes the African American civil rights
6 movement, since the story of, and resources as-
7 sociated with, the African American civil rights
8 movement involve networks, regions, and terri-
9 tories of the United States rather than indi-
10 vidual sites; and

11 (D) the establishment of a variety of part-
12 nerships among the Federal Government, State,
13 and units of local government, and the private
14 sector would be most appropriate for the pro-
15 tection, restoration, and interpretation of the
16 African American Civil Rights Network;

17 (5) the National Park Service can play a vital
18 role in facilitating the creation and sustained success
19 of the African American Civil Rights Network; and

20 (6) the story and significance of the African
21 American civil rights movement can best engage the
22 people of the United States through a national pro-
23 gram of the National Park Service that links, in a
24 unified and flexible manner—

1 (A) historic buildings, structures, and sites
2 relating to the African American civil rights
3 movement;

4 (B) geographic areas relating to the Afri-
5 can American civil rights movement;

6 (C) interpretive centers, museums, and in-
7 stitutions relating to the African American civil
8 rights movement; and

9 (D) programs, activities, community
10 projects, exhibits, and multimedia materials re-
11 lating to the African American civil rights
12 movement.

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

14 (1) to recognize—

15 (A) the importance of the African Amer-
16 ican civil rights movement; and

17 (B) the sacrifices made by the people who
18 fought against discrimination and segregation;
19 and

20 (2) to authorize the National Park Service to
21 coordinate and facilitate Federal and non-Federal
22 activities to commemorate, honor, and interpret—

23 (A) the history of the African American
24 civil rights movement;

1 (B) the significance of the civil rights
 2 movement as a crucial element in the evolution
 3 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C.
 4 2000a et seq.); and

5 (C) the relevance of the African American
 6 civil rights movement in fostering the spirit of
 7 social justice and national reconciliation.

8 **SEC. 3. U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS NETWORK PROGRAM.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subdivision 1 of Division B of
 10 subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, is amended
 11 by inserting after chapter 3083 the following:

12 **“CHAPTER 3084—U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS**
 13 **NETWORK**

14 **“§ 308401. Definition of network**

15 “In this chapter, the term ‘Network’ means the Afri-
 16 can American Civil Rights Network established under sec-
 17 tion 308402(a).

18 **“§ 308402. U.S. Civil Rights Network**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish,
 20 within the Service, a program to be known as the ‘U.S.
 21 Civil Rights Network’.

22 “(b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—In carrying out the
 23 Network, the Secretary shall—

24 “(1) review studies and reports to complement
 25 and not duplicate studies of the historical impor-

1 tance of the African American civil rights movement
2 that may be underway or completed, such as the
3 Civil Rights Framework Study;

4 “(2) produce and disseminate appropriate edu-
5 cational materials relating to the African American
6 civil rights movement, such as handbooks, maps, in-
7 terpretive guides, or electronic information;

8 “(3) enter into appropriate cooperative agree-
9 ments and memoranda of understanding to provide
10 technical assistance under subsection (c); and

11 “(4)(A) create and adopt an official, uniform
12 symbol or device for the Network; and

13 “(B) issue regulations for the use of the symbol
14 or device adopted under subparagraph (A).

15 “(c) ELEMENTS.—The Network shall encompass the
16 following elements:

17 “(1) All units and programs of the Service that
18 are determined by the Secretary to relate to the Af-
19 rican American civil rights movement during the pe-
20 riod from 1939 through 1968.

21 “(2) Other Federal, State, local, and privately
22 owned properties that—

23 “(A) relate to the African American civil
24 rights movement;

1 “(B) have a verifiable connection to the
2 African American civil rights movement; and

3 “(C) are included in, or determined by the
4 Secretary to be eligible for inclusion in, the Na-
5 tional Register of Historic Places.

6 “(3) Other governmental and nongovernmental
7 facilities and programs of an educational, research,
8 or interpretive nature that are directly related to the
9 African American civil rights movement.

10 **“§ 308403. Cooperative agreements and memoranda**
11 **of understanding**

12 “To achieve the purposes of this chapter and to en-
13 sure effective coordination of the Federal and non-Federal
14 elements of the Network described in section 308402(c)
15 with System units and programs of the Service, the Sec-
16 retary may enter into cooperative agreements and memo-
17 randa of understanding with, and provide technical assist-
18 ance to the heads of other Federal agencies, States, units
19 of local government, regional governmental bodies, and
20 private entities.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters
22 for title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting
23 after the item relating to chapter 3083 the following:

“3084. U.S. Civil Rights Network.”.

○