H. R. 672

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to provide funds for the removal of Confederate symbols, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 1, 2021

Mr. RUSH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to provide funds for the removal of Confederate symbols, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Rejecting and Eliminating the Foul Use of Symbols Exulting Confederate Principles Act” or the “REFUSE Confederate Principles Act”.

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SEC. 2. EMANCIPATION HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM.

(a) Establishment of Program.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall establish, within the National Park Service, a program to be known as the “Emancipation Historic Preservation Program” to—

(1) award grants to eligible entities in accordance with this section to—

(A) remove a Confederate symbol;

(B) remove and replace a Confederate symbol with an alternative monument, memorial, statue, commemorative structure, symbol, or signage;

(C) remove and replace a Confederate symbol with an alternative monument, memorial, statue, commemorative structure, symbol, or signage to commemorate or depict the freedom of enslaved African Americans; and

(D) remove and transfer a Confederate symbol to a State historic preservation program as defined in section 60.3 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(2) provide technical assistance to eligible entities related to the activities described in paragraph (1).
(b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to applications that include activities described in subsection (a)(1)(C) and (a)(1)(D).

(c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

(1) a plan for how the eligible entity will use grant funds to carry out one or more of the activities described in subsection (a)(1);

(2) if the application is for activities described in subsection (a)(1)(C), information demonstrating the relevance of the eligible entity’s application to activities described in subsection (a)(1)(C); and

(3) if the application is for activities described in subsection (a)(1)(D), information identifying the eligible entity as a State historic preservation program as defined in section 60.3 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations for activities described in subsection (a)(1)(D).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to provide grants under this section, $15,000,000 for each fiscal year
through 2031, of which $9,000,000 for each fiscal year
shall be made available to State historic preservation pro-
grams as defined in section 60.3 of title 36, Code of Fed-
eral Regulations, for costs related to the removal, transfer,
and storage of Confederate symbols under subsection
(a)(1)(D).

SEC. 3. LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FUNDS.

None of the funds made available by this Act may
be used by the Secretary, the Director, or an eligible entity
for the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, recon-
struction, or new construction of a Confederate symbol.

SEC. 4. REPORTS.

(a) GRANTEE REPORTS TO SECRETARY AND DIREC-
TOR.—Not later than 90 days after the earlier of the date
of expiration of a project period or the completion of a
project, each entity that receives a grant under this Act
shall submit to the Secretary and the Director a final re-
port containing such information as the Secretary may re-
quire.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
October 31 of each calendar year after the enactment of
this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
of the progress of the grant program established pursuant
to this Act.
SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONFEDERATE SYMBOL.—The term "Confederate symbol" includes—

(A) a Confederate flag; or

(B) a monument, memorial, statue, commemorative structure, symbol, or signage that honors a Confederate leader, Confederate soldier, the Confederate States of America, or the Confederacy in general.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the National Park Service.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means—

(A) a State;

(B) a political subdivision of a State, including—

(i) a city; and

(ii) a county;

(C) a territory or insular possession of the United States;

(D) the District of Columbia;

(E) an Indian Tribe (which has the meaning given the term "Indian tribe" in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));
(F) a special purpose district, including park districts;

(G) an academic institution; or

(H) a State historic preservation program, as defined in section 60.3 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.