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SENATE

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JAPANESE AMERICAN WORLD WAR II HISTORY NETWORK ACT

SEPTEMBER 27, 2022.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 6434]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 6434), to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish, within the National Park Service, the Japanese American World War II History Network, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 6434 is to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Japanese American World War II History Network within the National Park Service.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

H.R. 6434 establishes the Japanese American World War II History Network within the National Park Service (NPS). The bill would authorize the NPS to coordinate and facilitate federal and non-federal activities to commemorate, honor, and interpret the history of Japanese American incarceration during World War II, and the people, resources, and events that commemorate that history across the nation.

Between 1942 and 1945, the U.S. government wrongfully imprisoned approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans, most of whom were citizens, during World War II. Many of the U.S. government's

activities were done in secrecy and were not accurately represented to the public in the years after the war.

H.R. 6434 directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Network encompassing NPS sites and programs related to Japanese American World War II history and experiences during the war, including relocation centers and confinement sites. The Network would also include other non-NPS sites (with the consent of the owner) that relate to Japanese American World War II history and experiences.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

H.R. 6434, sponsored by Representative Obernolte and others, was introduced on January 20, 2022. The Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on the bill on February 3, 2022, and the bill was reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on March 9, 2022 (H. Rept. 117–262). H.R. 6434 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 406–16 on March 16, 2022. A companion bill, S. 4555, was introduced by Senator Barrasso on July 19, 2022.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on July 21, 2022, by a voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass H.R. 6434.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 provides the short title of the bill, the “Japanese American World War II History Network Act.”

Sec. 2. Japanese American World War II History Network

Section 2(a) directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Japanese American World War II History Network (Network) within the National Park Service.

Subsection (b) describes the duties of the Secretary in carrying out the Network, including reviewing studies and reports; producing and distributing educational materials and guides; entering into cooperative agreements; and creating and regulating the use of a symbol to represent the Network.

Subsection (c) defines elements of the Network, including units of the National Park System, other government facilities and programs, and with consent of the owner, non-Federal property that relate to Japanese American World War II history and experience.

Sec. 3. Cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding

Section 3 authorizes the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding with other Federal agencies, States (including units of local government), tribes, regional governmental bodies and private entities to provide technical assistance and ensure coordination between Federal and non-Federal sites.

Sec. 4. Sunset

Section 4 provides that the authority of the Secretary under this Act expires 7 years after the date of enactment.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The following estimate of costs of H.R. 6434, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on February 16, 2022, has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office.

H.R. 6434, Japanese American World War II History Network Act As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on February 16, 2022			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	1	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2032?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 6434 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Japanese American World War II History Network within the National Park Service (NPS). The network, which would be authorized for seven years, would coordinate federal and nonfederal activities that commemorate, honor, and interpret the history of Japanese Americans during World War II. It would consist of NPS units and programs related to the period along with properties and programs of other federal, state, local, and private entities that wished to join.

Under the bill, the NPS would produce and distribute educational materials about the network, create an official symbol, and provide technical assistance to entities interested in joining. The bill would authorize the NPS to enter into cooperative agreements and memorandums of understanding with private organizations and state and local governments.

Using information from the NPS, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 6434 would have an insignificant cost in each year, totaling \$1 million over the 2022–2026 period; spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Madeleine Fox. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out

H.R. 6434. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses. No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy. Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of H.R. 6434, as ordered reported.

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

H.R. 6434, as ordered reported, does not contain any congressionally directed spending items, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee did not hold a hearing on H.R. 6434. Testimony was provided by the Department of the Interior at the February 3, 2022, House Natural Resources Committee hearing on H.R. 6434.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by the bill as ordered report

