

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5122

To establish the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Julius Rosenwald and
5 Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

8 (1) to establish a unit of the National Park
9 System—

1 (A) to commemorate the life and legacy of
2 Julius Rosenwald, who—

3 (i) was the son of German-Jewish im-
4 migrants;

5 (ii) helped make Sears, Roebuck and
6 Co. the leading retailer in the United
7 States for many years;

8 (iii) used his enormous fortune to be-
9 come a visionary philanthropist; and

10 (iv) partnered with Booker T. Wash-
11 ington and approximately 5,000 African-
12 American communities in the segregated
13 South to build schools for children who
14 had few or no educational opportunities;

15 (B) to recognize the impact of the Rosen-
16 wald Schools, which—

17 (i) were constructed between 1912
18 and 1932 in 15 States; and

19 (ii) educated more than 600,000 Afri-
20 can-American children, including a number
21 of graduates who became leaders in the
22 civil rights movement, such as—

23 (I) Representative John Lewis;

24 (II) Maya Angelou;

25 (III) Medgar Evers;

1 (IV) Nina Simone; and

2 (V) Carlotta Walls LaNier;

3 (C) to honor other important parts of the
4 legacy of Julius Rosenwald, including—

5 (i) the Julius Rosenwald Fund,
6 which—

7 (I) between 1928 and 1948,
8 awarded fellowships to nearly 900 tal-
9 ented men and women—

10 (aa) $\frac{2}{3}$ of whom were Afri-
11 can Americans; and

12 (bb) including—

13 (AA) Marian Anderson;

14 (BB) Langston

15 Hughes;

16 (CC) Ralph Bunche;

17 (DD) James Baldwin;

18 (EE) Dr. Charles

19 Drew;

20 (FF) Ralph Ellison;

21 and

22 (GG) Woody Guthrie;

23 and

24 (II) supported early legal cases of
25 the National Association for the Ad-

- 1 vancement of Colored People that led
- 2 to the Supreme Court opinion in
- 3 Brown v. Board of Education of To-
- 4 peka, 347 U.S. 483 (1954);
- 5 (ii) founding the Jewish Federation of
- 6 Metropolitan Chicago;
- 7 (iii) service as a member of the board
- 8 of Jane Addams' Hull House for 20 years;
- 9 (iv) being a founding donor of the
- 10 Chicago Museum of Science and Industry;
- 11 and
- 12 (v) otherwise embodying social justice;
- 13 (2) to preserve a small number of representa-
- 14 tive sites of the Rosenwald Schools, including the
- 15 San Domingo School in Sharptown, Maryland, and
- 16 to establish a headquarters and visitor center for the
- 17 Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National
- 18 Historical Park within or near the former Sears
- 19 Merchandising Complex in North Lawndale in the
- 20 city of Chicago, Illinois, to enlighten visitors on—
- 21 (A) the overall life and legacy of Julius
- 22 Rosenwald; and
- 23 (B) the ways in which the Rosenwald
- 24 Schools—

1 (i) affected African-American edu-
2 cation in the South; and

3 (ii) helped to make the United States
4 a more democratic society; and

5 (3) to establish a network in the National Park
6 Service to connect the remaining Rosenwald Schools
7 to disseminate more fully the story of the Rosenwald
8 Schools throughout the United States.

9 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map
12 prepared under section 4(b)(2)(A).

13 (2) NETWORK.—The term “Network” means
14 the Rosenwald Schools National Network established
15 under section 5(a)(1).

16 (3) PARK.—The term “Park” means the Julius
17 Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Histor-
18 ical Park established by section 4(a)(1).

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

21 **SEC. 4. JULIUS ROSENWALD AND ROSENWALD SCHOOLS**
22 **NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
25 there is established as a unit of the National Park

1 System the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald
2 Schools National Historical Park.

3 (2) DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—

4 (A) DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT.—The Park
5 shall not be established until the date on which
6 the Secretary determines that a sufficient quan-
7 tity of land or interests in land within the
8 boundary of the Park has been acquired to con-
9 stitute a manageable unit.

10 (B) FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—The
11 Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register
12 notice of a determination under subparagraph
13 (A).

14 (b) BOUNDARY.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Park shall consist of
16 the following:

17 (A) The 40-acre site selected for the Sears
18 merchandising complex constructed in 1905–
19 1906, which includes the original Sears Admin-
20 istration Building, the catalog building, the
21 power plant, and the Nichols Tower, which now
22 comprise the Sears Roebuck and Company
23 Complex National Historic Landmark, and the
24 Sears Sunken Garden directly across the street
25 from the Sears Administration Building.

1 (B) The San Domingo Rosenwald School
2 in Sharptown, Maryland, as generally depicted
3 on the Map.

4 (C) Any Rosenwald School or other area
5 designated by Congress to be included in the
6 Park after the date of enactment of this Act.

7 (2) MAP.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
10 retary shall prepare a map of the boundary of
11 the Park.

12 (B) AVAILABILITY.—The Map shall be on
13 file and available for public inspection in the
14 appropriate offices of the National Park Serv-
15 ice.

16 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall admin-
18 ister land within the boundary of the Park in ac-
19 cordance with—

20 (A) this section; and

21 (B) the laws generally applicable to units
22 of the National Park System, including—

23 (i) sections 100101(a), 100751(a),
24 100752, 100753, and 102101 of title 54,
25 United States Code; and

1 (ii) chapters 1003 and 3201 of title
2 54, United States Code.

3 (2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—To further the pur-
5 poses of this section and notwithstanding chap-
6 ter 63 of title 31, United States Code, the Sec-
7 retary may enter into cooperative agreements
8 with the State of Illinois, the city of Chicago,
9 the State of Maryland, other appropriate State
10 and local government officials, and public and
11 nonpublic entities, subject to subparagraph
12 (B)—

13 (i) to support collaborative interpre-
14 tive and educational programs at non-Fed-
15 eral historic properties within the boundary
16 of the Park; and

17 (ii) to identify, interpret, and provide
18 assistance for the preservation of non-Fed-
19 eral land within the boundary of the Park
20 and at sites related to the Park but located
21 outside the boundaries of the Park, includ-
22 ing providing for—

23 (I) the placement of directional
24 and interpretive signage;

25 (II) exhibits; and

1 (III) technology-based and other
2 interpretive devices.

3 (B) PUBLIC ACCESS.—A cooperative agree-
4 ment entered into under this paragraph shall
5 provide for reasonable public access to any
6 property subject to the cooperative agreement.

7 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may use
9 appropriated funds to carry out a project to
10 mark, interpret, improve, restore, or provide
11 technical assistance with respect to the preser-
12 vation and interpretation of any property that
13 is subject to a cooperative agreement under
14 paragraph (2).

15 (B) INCONSISTENT PURPOSES.—Any pay-
16 ment made by the Secretary under this section
17 shall be subject to an agreement that the con-
18 version, use, or disposal of a project carried out
19 under subparagraph (A) for purposes that are
20 inconsistent with the purposes of this section,
21 as determined by the Secretary, shall result in
22 a right of the United States to reimbursement
23 in an amount that is the greater of—

24 (i) the amount provided by the Sec-
25 retary to the project; and

1 (ii) an amount equal to the increase in
 2 the value of the project that is attributable
 3 to the funds, as determined by the Sec-
 4 retary as of the date of the conversion,
 5 use, or disposal.

6 (4) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
 8 graph (B), the Secretary may, within the Na-
 9 tional Historic Landmark District in Chicago,
 10 Illinois—

11 (i) acquire a facade or other easement
 12 interest on the Nichols Tower; and

13 (ii) enter into a lease or other agree-
 14 ment for purposes of providing for admin-
 15 istration of the Park and appropriate vis-
 16 itor services.

17 (B) OUTSIDE OF PARK BOUNDARY.—If the
 18 Secretary is unable to identify appropriate
 19 space for administration and visitor services in
 20 accordance with subparagraph (A)(ii), the Sec-
 21 retary may acquire the appropriate land or in-
 22 terests in land, or enter into other appropriate
 23 agreements, in the vicinity of, but outside the
 24 boundary of the Park, for administration and
 25 visitor services.

1 (C) LIMITATION.—The San Domingo
 2 School in Sharptown, Maryland, may only be
 3 acquired by the Secretary under this section
 4 by—

5 (i) donation;

6 (ii) purchase with donated funds; or

7 (iii) exchange.

8 (5) INTERPRETATION.—To further the dissemi-
 9 nation of information about the life and legacy of
 10 Julius Rosenwald, with an emphasis on the partner-
 11 ship of Julius Rosenwald with Booker T. Wash-
 12 ington and the approximately 5,000 communities in
 13 the South that led to the establishment and success
 14 of the Rosenwald Schools, the Secretary shall in-
 15 clude interpretation of the story of Julius Rosenwald
 16 at—

17 (A) the Lincoln Home National Historic
 18 Site in the State of Illinois, within the boundary
 19 of which is located the home of Julius Rosen-
 20 wald; and

21 (B) the Tuskegee Institute National His-
 22 toric Site in the State of Alabama, which was
 23 founded by Booker T. Washington for the edu-
 24 cation of African Americans and at which archi-
 25 tects designed the early Rosenwald Schools.

1 (6) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3 fis-
2 cal years after the date on which funds are first
3 made available to carry out this section, the Sec-
4 retary shall complete a general management plan for
5 the Park in accordance with—

6 (A) section 100502 of title 54, United
7 States Code; and

8 (B) any other applicable laws.

9 **SEC. 5. ROSENWALD SCHOOLS NATIONAL NETWORK.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

11 (1) establish, within the National Park Service,
12 a program to be known as the “Rosenwald Schools
13 National Network”;

14 (2) as soon as practicable after the date of en-
15 actment of this Act, solicit proposals from sites, fa-
16 cilities, and programs interested in being a part of
17 the Network; and

18 (3) administer the Network.

19 (b) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out
20 the Network, the Secretary shall—

21 (1) review studies and reports to complement
22 and not duplicate studies of the historical impor-
23 tance of the Rosenwald Schools;

24 (2) produce and disseminate appropriate edu-
25 cational and promotional materials relating to the

1 life and work of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosen-
2 wald Schools that are part of the Network, such as
3 handbooks, maps, interpretive guides, or electronic
4 information;

5 (3) enter into appropriate cooperative agree-
6 ments and memoranda of understanding to provide
7 assistance, as appropriate;

8 (4)(A) create and adopt an official, uniform
9 symbol or device for the Network; and

10 (B) issue regulations for the use of the symbol
11 or device adopted under this paragraph;

12 (5) conduct research relating to the Rosenwald
13 Schools;

14 (6) make recommendations for any additional
15 Rosenwald School sites that should be considered for
16 inclusion within the Park due to the significance, in-
17 tegrity, and need for management by the National
18 Park Service of the sites; and

19 (7) have the authority to provide grants to Net-
20 work elements described in subsection (c).

21 (c) ELEMENTS.—The Network shall encompass the
22 following elements:

23 (1) All units and programs of the National
24 Park Service that are determined by the Secretary

1 to relate to the story of Julius Rosenwald and the
2 Rosenwald Schools.

3 (2) Other Federal, State, local, and privately
4 owned properties that the Secretary determines—

5 (A) relate to Julius Rosenwald and the
6 Rosenwald Schools; and

7 (B) are included in, or determined by the
8 Secretary to be eligible for inclusion in, the Na-
9 tional Register of Historic Places.

10 (3) Other governmental and nongovernmental
11 sites, facilities, and programs of an educational, re-
12 search, or interpretive nature that are directly re-
13 lated to Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald
14 Schools.

15 (d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDA
16 OF UNDERSTANDING.—To achieve the purposes of this
17 section and to ensure effective coordination of the Federal
18 and non-Federal elements of the Network and units and
19 programs of the National Park Service, the Secretary may
20 enter into cooperative agreements and memoranda of un-
21 derstanding with, and provide technical assistance to, the
22 heads of other Federal agencies, States, units of local gov-
23 ernment, regional governmental bodies, and private enti-
24 ties.

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