

TO DIRECT THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY TO PROCURE A
STATUE OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN FOR PLACEMENT IN THE CAPITOL

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. STEIL, from the Committee on House Administration,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 6969]

The Committee on House Administration, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6969) to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 6969, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol, introduced by Representatives Chrissy Houlahan, Brian Fitzpatrick, Brendan Boyle, Daniel Meuser, Madeleine Dean, Mike Kelly, Susan Wild, Dwight Evans, Debbie Dingell, Dina Titus, Lisa McClain, Joe Wilson, Bill Johnson, Glenn Thompson, Nancy Mace, Chris Pappas, Veronica Escobar, William Keating, Bonnie Watson

Coleman, Michael Lawler, Robert Wittman, Robert Latta, Daniel Kildee, and Stephanie Bice, would direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Founding Father Benjamin Franklin for permanent public placement in the United States Capitol.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

BACKGROUND

There is no statue of Benjamin Franklin on the House side of the United States Capitol. There is one statue of Benjamin Franklin on the Senate side of the Capitol in the East Senate Stairway off the floor of the United States Senate chamber.

NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Representatives Chrissy Houlahan, Brian Fitzpatrick, Brendan Boyle, Daniel Meuser, Madeleine Dean, Mike Kelly, Susan Wild, Dwight Evans, Debbie Dingell, Dina Titus, Lisa McClain, Joe Wilson, Bill Johnson, Glenn Thompson, Nancy Mace, Chris Pappas, Veronica Escobar, William Keating, Bonnie Watson Coleman, Michael Lawler, Robert Wittman, Robert Latta, Daniel Kildee, and Stephanie Bice introduced H.R. 6969, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol, would direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Founding Father Benjamin Franklin for permanent public placement in the United States Capitol.

Under this legislation, the committee would secure a statue of Benjamin Franklin and place in a publicly accessible location in the United States Capitol.

COMMITTEE ACTION

INTRODUCTION AND REFERRAL

On January 11, 2024, Representatives Chrissy Houlahan, Brian Fitzpatrick, Brendan Boyle, Daniel Meuser, Madeleine Dean, Mike Kelly, Susan Wild, Dwight Evans, Debbie Dingell, Dina Titus, Lisa McClain, Joe Wilson, Bill Johnson, Glenn Thompson, Nancy Mace, Chris Pappas, Veronica Escobar, William Keating, Bonnie Watson Coleman, Michael Lawler, Robert Wittman, Robert Latta, Daniel Kildee, and Stephanie Bice introduced H.R. 6969, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol. The bill was referred to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On September 11, 2024, the Committee on House Administration met in open session and ordered the bill, H.R. 6969, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol, favorably reported, with a quorum being present.

COMMITTEE VOTES

In compliance with clause 3(b) of House rule XIII, the following vote occurred during the Committee's consideration of H.R. 3229:

Vote to report H.R. 6969 favorably, to the House of Representatives, passed by voice vote.

STATEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I of the United States Constitution.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of House rule XIII, the Committee advises that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

STATEMENT OF BUDGET AUTHORITY AND RELATED ITEMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a)(I) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee provides the following opinion and estimate with respect to new budget authority, entitlement authority, and tax expenditures. The Committee believes that there will be no additional costs attributable to H.R. 6969.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, a cost estimate provided by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chairman of the Committee shall cause such an estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record if it is received by the Committee.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Joint Committee on the Library shall enter into an agreement to obtain a statue of Benjamin Franklin. Not later than January 1, 2026, the Joint Committee shall place the statue.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of House rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 6969 establishes or reauthorizes a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another federal program.

ADVISORY ON EARMARKS

In accordance with clause 9 of House rule XXI, H.R. 6969 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clauses 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of House rule XXI.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

An estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chairman of the

Committee shall cause such an estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record if it is received by the Committee.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

H.R. 6969 does not establish or authorize any new advisory committees.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1

This section regards the procurement and placement of the statue of Benjamin Franklin.

