

DESIGNATING THE HOUSE PRESS GALLERY, ROOMS H-315, H-316, H-317,
H-318, AND H-319 IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL, AS THE “FRED-
ERICK DOUGLASS PRESS GALLERY”

JUNE 6, 2025.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. GRAVES, from the Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. Res. 137]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to whom
was referred the resolution (H. Res. 137) designating the House
Press Gallery, Rooms H-315, H-316, H-317, H-318, and H-319 in
the United States Capitol, as the “Frederick Douglass Press Gal-
lery”, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with
amendments and recommends that the resolution be agreed to.

C O N T E N T S

	Page
Purpose of Legislation	2
Background and Need for Legislation	2
Hearings	3
Legislative History and Consideration	3
Committee Votes	3
Committee Oversight Findings and Recommendations	3
New Budget Authority and Tax Expenditures	3
Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate	4
Performance Goals and Objectives	7
Duplication of Federal Programs	7
Congressional Earmarks, Limited Tax Benefits, and Limited Tariff Benefits ...	7
Federal Mandates Statement	7
Preemption Clarification	7
Advisory Committee Statement	7
Applicability to Legislative Branch	7
Section-by-Section Analysis of the Legislation, as Amended	7
Changes in Existing Law Made by the Bill, as Reported	8

The amendments are as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas Frederick Douglass was born to an enslaved family in 1818;
Whereas Douglass bravely escaped slavery in 1838, and spent much of his adult life
as a journalist in Rochester, New York;

Whereas Douglass published his first newspaper, The North Star, using his own money in the pre-Civil War era;

Whereas Douglass was known for fiercely opposing slavery, championing equal rights and women's rights, and for being a forceful speaker;

Whereas, during the Civil War, Douglass was a recruiter for the first African-American Army regiment;

Whereas Douglass met twice with President Lincoln, first about the pay and treatment of Black soldiers and then to discuss the President's desire to assist escaping slaves;

Whereas after Douglass' Rochester home was destroyed by fire (which Douglass believed resulted from arson), he moved his family to Anacostia in Washington, DC;

Whereas, in 1870, Douglass was asked to become editor of the New National Era, which chronicled the progress of Blacks throughout the United States, and he later bought the paper;

Whereas Douglass was the first Black reporter allowed into the Capitol press galleries, where journalists watch lawmakers on the floors of the Senate and the House of Representatives;

Whereas Douglass was a member of the congressional press galleries from 1871–1875;

Whereas Douglass reported on House and Senate legislation regularly to update the African-American community during Reconstruction following the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution;

Whereas Douglass was recorded frequently in the congressional directory and spent a significant amount of time writing and studying from the House Press Gallery;

Whereas Douglass often visited the Capitol following his time as a member of the congressional press galleries;

Whereas Douglass delivered the keynote speech at the unveiling of the Emancipation Memorial in Washington's Lincoln Park;

Whereas, in 2007, Douglass was recognized by placing a plaque and painting of him in his honor in the House Press Gallery;

Whereas, in 2012, Congress passed and the President signed Public Law 112–174, which directed Frederick Douglass' statue placement in the Capitol Visitor Center's Emancipation Hall; and

Whereas Douglass was a pioneer in journalism who broke through glass ceilings throughout one of the most crucial times in American history, exhibited great perseverance to become an American hero, and became a legend known in the House Press Gallery: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House Press Gallery (Rooms H–315, H–316, H–317, H–318, and H–319 of the United States Capitol) is designated as the “Frederick Douglass Press Gallery”.

Amend the title so as to read:

Resolution designating the House Press Gallery (Rooms H–315, H–316, H–317, H–318, and H–319 of the United States Capitol) as the “Frederick Douglass Press Gallery”.

PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

The purpose of H. Res. 137, as amended, is to designate the House Press Gallery (Rooms H–315, H–316, H–317, H–318, and H–319 of the United States Capitol), as the “Frederick Douglass Press Gallery.”

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

In 1841, the Senate set aside ten seats in the front row of the Old Senate Chamber above the presiding officer's desk for use as a “Reporters Gallery.”¹ In 1879, the House of Representatives adopted rules establishing a Standing Committee of Correspond-

¹U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESS GALLERY, *History of the Congressional Press Galleries*, available at <https://pressgallery.house.gov/about-gallery/history-congressional-press-galleries>.

ents.² Prior to the creation of the Standing Committee, Frederick Douglass was a member of the press galleries from 1870 to 1874 as editor of the *New National Era*.³

Frederick Douglass escaped slavery in 1838, later became a newspaper publisher and was the first African American reporter allowed in the press galleries of the Capitol.⁴ In 2007, a plaque honoring Frederick Douglass was installed in the House Press Gallery.⁵

HEARINGS

For the purposes of rule XIII, clause 3(c)(6)(A) of the 119th Congress, no hearings were held to develop or consider H. Res. 137.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND CONSIDERATION

H. Res. 137 was introduced in the United States House of Representatives on February 14, 2025, by Mr. Donalds of Florida and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Within the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, H. Res. 137 was referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. The Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management was discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 137 on April 2, 2025.

The Committee considered H. Res. 137 on April 2, 2025, and ordered the measure to be reported to the House with a favorable recommendation, with amendment, by voice vote.

The following amendment was offered: An Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H. Res. 137 offered by Mr. Owens of Utah, was AGREED TO by voice vote.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires each committee report to include the total number of votes cast for and against on each record vote on a motion to report and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, and the names of those members voting for and against.

No recorded votes were requested during consideration of H. Res. 137.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in this report.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply where a cost estimate and comparison pre-

²*Id.*

³Associated Press, *Frederick Douglass Commemorated As 1st Black Reporter Allowed Into Capitol Press Galleries*, FOXNEWS (Updated Jan. 13, 2007), available at <https://www.foxnews.com/story/frederick-douglass-commemorated-as-1st-black-reporter-allowed-into-capitol-press-galleries>.

⁴Emily Brooks, *Talks proceed for vote naming House Press Gallery after Frederick Douglass*, The Hill, (Feb. 14, 2025), available at <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/5145600-frederick-douglass-house-press-gallery-rename/>.

⁵*Id.*

pared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974* has been timely submitted prior to the filing of the report and is included in the report. Such a cost estimate is included in this report.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974*, the Committee has received the enclosed cost estimate for H. Res. 137 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

The Majority Leader of the House of Representatives announces bills that will be considered under suspension of the rules in that chamber. Under suspension, floor debate is limited, all floor amendments are prohibited, points of order against the bill are waived, and final passage requires a two-thirds majority vote.

At the request of the Majority Leader and the House Committee on the Budget, CBO estimates the effects of those bills on direct spending and revenues. CBO has limited time to review the legislation before consideration. Although it is possible in most cases to determine whether the legislation would affect direct spending or revenues, time may be insufficient to estimate the magnitude of those effects. If CBO has prepared estimates for similar or identical legislation, a more detailed assessment of budgetary effects, including effects on spending subject to appropriation, may be included.

Effects on Direct Spending and Revenues of Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules in the House of Representatives

Week of June 9, 2025

Bill Number	Title	Effect on Direct Spending	Effect on Revenues	Additional Information on Direct Spending and Revenue Effects	Link to Published Estimates	Suspension Bill Text at docs.house.gov
H.R. 188	Amtrak Transparency and Accountability for Passengers and Taxpayers Act, as amended.	None	None .....	.....	https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61031 ...	https://docs.house.gov/billsisweek/20250609/h188_rh_xml.pdf
H.R. 248	Baby Changing on Board Act	None	None .....	.....	https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61462 ...	https://docs.house.gov/billsisweek/20250609/h248_rh_xml.pdf
H.R. 252	Secure Our Ports Act, as amended	None	None .....	.....	.....	https://docs.house.gov/billsisweek/20250609/h252_rh_xml.pdf
H.R. 1182	Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety and Oversight Improvements Act of 2025.	None	None .....	.....	https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61275 ..	https://docs.house.gov/billsisweek/20250609/H1182_RH_xml.pdf
H.R. 1373	Tennessee Valley Authority Transparency Act of 2025, as amended.	None	None .....	.....	.....	https://docs.house.gov/billsisweek/20250609/H1373_RH_xml.pdf
H.R. 1948	To authorize the International Boundary and Water Commission to accept funds for activities relating to waste-water treatment and flood control works, and for other purposes.	Reduce by Less Than \$500K.	None .....	.....	https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61358 ..	https://docs.house.gov/billsisweek/20250609/h1948_rh_xml.pdf
H.R. 2035	American Cargo for American Ships Act	Increase by Less Than \$500K.	None .....	.....	.....	https://docs.house.gov/billsisweek/20250609/H2035_RH_xml.pdf
H.R. 2351	To direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard to update the policy of the Coast Guard regarding the use of medication to treat drug overdose, and for other purposes.	None	None .....	.....	https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61446 ...	https://docs.house.gov/billsisweek/20250609/h2351_rh_xml[1].pdf
H.R. 2390	Maritime Supply Chain Security Act	None	None .....	.....	https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61437 ...	https://docs.house.gov/billsisweek/20250609/h2390_rh_xml.pdf
H. Res. 137 ...	Designating the House Press Gallery (Rooms H-315, H-316, H-317, H-318, and H-319 of the United States Capitol) as the “Frederick Douglass Press Gallery”, as amended.	None	None .....	.....	.....	https://docs.house.gov/billsisweek/20250609/HR137_RH_xml.pdf

Effects on Direct Spending and Revenues of Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules in the House of Representatives—Continued

Week of June 9, 2025

Bill Number	Title	Effect on Direct Spending	Effect on Revenues	Additional Information on Direct Spending and Revenue Effects	Link to Published Estimates	Suspension Bill Text at docs.house.gov
H. Res.	Denouncing the antisemitic terrorist attack in Boulder, Colorado..	None	None			https://docs.house.gov/bills/thisweek/20250609/H%20Res%20%20(Evans).pdf
H. Res.	Condemning the rise in ideologically motivated attacks on Jewish individuals in the United States, including the recent violent assault in Boulder, Colorado, and reaffirming the House of Representatives commitment to combating antisemitism and politically motivated violence.	None	None			https://docs.house.gov/bills/thisweek/20250609/H%20Res%20%20(Van%20Drew).pdf

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the performance goal and objective of this legislation is to designate the House Press Gallery (Rooms H-315, H-316, H-317, H-318, and H-319 of the United States Capitol), as the “Frederick Douglass Press Gallery.”

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds that no provision of H. Res. 137 establishes or reauthorizes a program of the Federal government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, a program that was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111-139, or a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED
TARIFF BENEFITS

In compliance with clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, this bill, as reported, contains no Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(e), 9(f), or 9(g) of the rule XXI.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the *Unfunded Mandates Reform Act* (Public Law 104-4).

PREEMPTION CLARIFICATION

Section 423 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974* requires the report of any Committee on a bill or joint resolution to include a statement on the extent to which the bill or joint resolution is intended to preempt state, local, or tribal law. The Committee finds that H. Res. 137 does not preempt any state, local, or tribal law.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the definition of Section 5(b) of Public Law 92-463 (5 U.S.C. 1004(b)), United States Code, are created by this legislation.

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* (Public Law 104-1).

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION, AS AMENDED

The Resolution resolves that the House Press Gallery (Rooms H-315, H-316, H-317, H-318, and H-319 of the United States Capitol), is designated as the “Frederick Douglass Press Gallery.”

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

As reported by Committee, H. Res. 137 makes no changes to existing law.

