

MEDGAR EVERS HOME NATIONAL MONUMENT ACT

APRIL 11, 2018.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Natural Resources, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 4895]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4895) to establish the Medgar Evers National Monument in the State of Mississippi, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Medgar Evers Home National Monument Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MONUMENT.—The term “Monument” means the Medgar Evers Home National Monument established by section 3.

(2) HISTORIC DISTRICT.—The term “Historic District” means the Medgar Evers Historic District, as included on the National Register of Historic Places, and as generally depicted on the Map.

(3) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map entitled “Medgar Evers Home National Monument”, numbered 515/142561, and dated February 2018.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(5) COLLEGE.—The term “College” means Tougaloo College, a private educational institution located in Tougaloo, Mississippi.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDGAR EVERS HOME NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), there is established the Medgar Evers Home National Monument in the State of Mississippi as a unit of the National Park System to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations resources associated with Medgar Evers’ pivotal role in the American Civil Rights Movement.

- (2) CONDITIONS.—The Monument shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary—
- (A) has entered into a written agreement with the College providing that all parcels within the Medgar Evers Home National Monument boundary as depicted on the Map shall be donated to the United States for inclusion in the Monument to be managed consistently with the purposes of the Monument; and
 - (B) has otherwise acquired sufficient land or interests in land within the boundaries of the Monument to constitute a manageable unit.
- (b) BOUNDARIES.—The boundaries of Monument shall be the boundaries generally depicted on the Map.
- (c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.
- (d) ACQUISITION OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may only acquire any land or interest in land located within the boundary of the Monument by—
- (1) donation;
 - (2) purchase with donated funds; or
 - (3) exchange.
- (e) ADMINISTRATION.—
- (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the Monument in accordance with—
 - (A) this Act; and
 - (B) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System.
 - (2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—
 - (A) Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to the Secretary for this purpose, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the Monument in accordance with section 100502 of title 54, United States Code.
 - (B) On completion of the general management plan under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall submit it to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.
- (f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—
- (1) MONUMENT.—The Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the College for interpretive and educational programming related to the Monument, and may enter into other cooperative agreements for the purposes of carrying out this Act.
 - (2) HISTORIC DISTRICT.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the owner of a nationally significant property within the Historic District, to identify, mark, interpret, improve, restore, and provide technical assistance with respect to the preservation and interpretation of the property.
- (g) NO BUFFER ZONES.—Nothing in this Act, the establishment of the Monument, or the management of the Monument shall be construed to create buffer zones outside of the Monument. The fact that an activity or use can be seen, heard, or detected from within the Monument shall not preclude the conduct of that activity or use outside of the Monument.

Amend the title so as to read:

A bill to establish the Medgar Evers Home National Monument in the State of Mississippi, and for other purposes.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 4895, as ordered reported, is to establish the Medgar Evers Home National Monument in the State of Mississippi.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Medgar Wiley Evers was born in Decatur, Mississippi, on July 2, 1925. Medgar served in the U.S. Army in France and Germany during World War II. Following his military service, he attended Alcorn State University where he met his future wife, Myrlie.¹

¹“Medgar Evers.” Biography.com. January 24, 2018. Accessed February 01, 2018. <http://www.biography.com/people/medgar-evers-9542324>.

In February 1954, Evers applied to the then-segregated University of Mississippi Law School. When his application was rejected, Evers became the focus of an National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) campaign to desegregate the school. In December of that year, Evers became the NAACP's first field officer in Mississippi.²

On June 12, 1963, as he returned home from a NAACP planning meeting, Evers was shot in the back by Byron De La Beckwith, a member of the White Citizens' Council. He died at a local hospital less than an hour later and was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.³

The widowed Mrs. Evers and her children continued to live in their home in Jackson, Mississippi, for a year after the murder of her husband, but given continued social unrest, Mrs. Evers decided that she and her family could not remain and relocated her family to California. Subsequently, she donated the house to Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi. The home, now a museum operated by Tougaloo College, contains period furnishings, exhibits, and family photographs that honor Medgar Evers' legacy as one of the icons of the Civil Rights Movement in America.⁴ The home was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000 and in 2017 was designated as a National Historic Landmark.⁵ The Medgar Evers Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2013.⁶

The Board of Trustees of Tougaloo College is interested in donating the Evers home to the National Park Service and has written in support of this legislation. Last year, through Public Law 115-31, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior to conduct special resource studies of significant civil rights sites in the State of Mississippi, one of which was the Medgar Evers home.

H.R. 4895 establishes the Medgar Evers Home National Monument provided that his home is donated to the United States. The Secretary of the Interior will develop a management plan for the monument and enter into a cooperative agreement with Tougaloo College for interpretative and educational program relating to the monument.

The bill is supported by Tougaloo College, the Jackson Historic Preservation Commission, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 4895 was introduced on January 29, 2018, by Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands. On February 6, 2018, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the legislation. On February 14, 2018,

²"NAACP History: Medgar Evers." NAACP.com. Accessed February 1, 2018. <http://www.naacp.org/oldest-and-boldest/naacp-history-medgar-evers/>.

³ Id.

⁴Legislative Hearing on H.R. 959 Before the Subcommittee on Federal Lands, United States House of Representatives, 114th Cong. (2015) (statement of Karen E. Mouritsen, Deputy Assistant Director, Energy, Minerals, and Realty Management—BLM).

⁵"Interior Department Announces 24 New National Historic Landmarks." DOI.gov. January 11, 2017. Accessed February 1, 2018. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-24-new-national-historic-landmarks>.

⁶"Medgar Evers Historic District." National Parks Service. Accessed February 01, 2018. <https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/13000737.htm>.

the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee was discharged by unanimous consent. Congressman Rob Bishop (R-UT) offered an amendment designated #1; it was adopted by unanimous consent. No further amendments were offered, and the bill, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act. With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) and (3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and sections 308(a) and 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following estimate for the bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, April 5, 2018.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
*Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 4895, the Medgar Evers Home National Monument Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Janani Shankaran.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 4895—Medgar Evers Home National Monument Act

H.R. 4895 would establish the Medgar Evers Home National Monument in Jackson, Mississippi. Under the bill, the site would become a unit of the National Park System and would be owned and operated by the National Park Service (NPS). The bill would direct the NPS to acquire the Medgar Evers home by means of donation from Tougaloo College. Based on the expected date of that donation and the experience of other system units, CBO expects the monument would not be formally established for several years.

Using information from the NPS on the costs for operating new system units, CBO estimates that the agency would incur about \$200,000 annually in administrative costs in its initial years. The bill also would require the NPS to develop a general management plan for the monument. Based on the costs of similar tasks, CBO estimates that developing the plan would cost less than \$500,000. In total, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4895 would cost

about \$1 million over the 2018–2022 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting H.R. 4895 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4895 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 4895 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Janani Shankaran. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

2. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill, as ordered reported, is to establish the Medgar Evers Home National Monument in the State of Mississippi.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104–4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

COMPLIANCE WITH H. RES. 5

Directed Rule Making. This bill does not contain any directed rule makings.

Duplication of Existing Programs. This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95–220, as amended by Public Law 98–169) as relating to other programs.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes to existing law.