

NATIONAL LIBERTY MEMORIAL PRESERVATION ACT

APRIL 25, 2022.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GRIJALVA, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 6201]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6201) to extend the authority for the establishment of a commemorative work to honor enslaved and free Black persons who served in the American Revolution, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 6201 is to extend the authority for the establishment of a commemorative work to honor enslaved and free Black persons who served in the American Revolution, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 6201 would extend the authorization of the National Liberty Memorial—a monument to commemorate enslaved and free African Americans who fought in the Revolutionary War—until September 2027. The authorization would allow the National Mall Liberty Fund DC, a private nonprofit established and congressionally authorized to raise donations and construct the memorial, to continue construction of this memorial near the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Construction costs are covered by donations and come at no cost to taxpayers.

Efforts to establish the National Liberty Memorial began when Lena Santos Ferguson, an African American woman from Plainville, CT, sought to join the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The settlement of her discrimination claim in 1984 obli-

gated DAR to identify and publish the names of every Black soldier and patriot of the Revolutionary War. More than 5,000 enslaved and free African Americans were identified in a 900-page volume.

The period preceding the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States on July 4, 1776, offers the best conditions in ten generations to honor and preserve the contributions of enslaved and free Black soldiers and civilians to independence by the triumph of a permanent National Liberty Memorial representing deeds Congress on two previous occasions declared of “preeminent historical and lasting significance to the nation.”

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 6201 was introduced on December 8, 2021, by Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman (D–NJ). The bill was referred solely to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. On February 3, 2022, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On February 16, 2022, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee was discharged by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered, and the bill was adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House Rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held on February 3, 2022.

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 19, 2022.

Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
*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. 6201, the National Liberty Memorial Preservation Act.

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

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 6201, National Liberty Memorial Preservation 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	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	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 -\$500,000 and zero.			

H.R. 6201 would extend, through September 30, 2027, the authority of the National Mall Liberty Fund to construct a commemorative work on federal land within the District of Columbia honoring enslaved and free Black soldiers and civilians who contributed to the nation's independence during the American Revolutionary War.

The project would be subject to the provisions of the Commemorative Works Act. Under that act, any entity that receives a construction permit for a commemorative work must donate an amount equal to 10 percent of the memorial's estimated construction costs to the National Park Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose subsequent donations to the National Park Service are recorded on the budget. That donation and any project funds remaining after construction would be available for maintenance of the memorial without further appropriation.

Based on the experience from similar projects, CBO expects that any amounts collected by the federal government for maintenance of the monument would not be received for several years and would be offset by expenditures soon thereafter. Thus, CBO estimates that the bill's net effect on direct spending would be negligible.

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

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goals and objectives of this bill are to extend the authority for the establishment of a commemorative work to honor enslaved and free Black persons who served in the American Revolution.

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.

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

According to CBO, this bill contains no unfunded mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program.

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.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

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

SUPPLEMENTAL, MINORITY, ADDITIONAL, OR DISSENTING VIEWS

None.