

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS AND THEIR COMMITMENT TO OUR LANDS

---

DECEMBER 30, 2022.—Referred to the House Calendar 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. Res. 641]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Res. 641) recognizing and celebrating the 75th anniversary of the National Association of Conservation Districts and their commitment to our lands, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the resolution be agreed to.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of H. Res. 641 is to recognize and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the National Association of Conservation Districts and their commitment to our lands.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Conservation districts are local units of government established by state laws to coordinate conservation, land and water resource protection, and natural resource management activities on public and private lands. Conservation districts originated in the 1930s with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's recommendation that all states adopt the *Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Act* to improve soil and water conservation. North Carolina's Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District was the first district, established in 1937.<sup>1</sup> There are now 2,959 conservation districts in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

The National Association of Conservation Districts is a nonprofit organization representing all conservation districts in the U.S. and has existed since 1946. H. Res. 641 is a resolution that recognizes

---

<sup>1</sup>National Association of Conservation Districts. *NACD History*. <https://www.nacdnet.org/about-nacd/nacd-history/>.

<sup>2</sup>National Association of Conservation Districts. *NACD About*. <https://www.nacdnet.org/about-nacd/about-districts/>.

and celebrates the 75th anniversary of the National Association of Conservation Districts.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

H. Res. 641 was introduced on September 14, 2021, by Representative Dan Newhouse (R-WA). The bill was referred solely to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife. On January 20, 2022, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the measure. On February 16, 2022, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the legislation. The Subcommittee was discharged by unanimous consent. The measure 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 Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held on January 20, 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.* The Committee notes that the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 do not apply to committee reports on simple resolutions.<sup>3</sup> 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 also do not apply to simple resolutions.<sup>4</sup> The Committee notes that clause 3(d) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives as well does not apply to committee reports on simple resolutions.

To the extent that any of the preceding requirements may nonetheless apply, the Committee notes that it has requested but not received a cost estimate for this legislation from the Director of Congressional Budget Office. The Committee adopts as its own cost estimate any forthcoming cost estimate of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, should such cost estimate be made available before House agreement to the resolution. The Committee has

<sup>3</sup> See Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, Pub. L. No. 93-344, § 308(a), 88 Stat. 297, 313 (1974), <https://uscode.house.gov/statviewer.htm?volume=88&page=313> (codified as 2 U.S.C. § 639(a)) (statutory compilation through P.L. 116-94 at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/COMPS-10356/pdf/COMPS-10356.pdf>) (explicitly limiting the subsection's various requirements to (1) "a bill or joint resolution, or committee amendment thereto, providing new budget authority", (2) a conference report, or (3) PAYGO legislation).

<sup>4</sup> Compare Pub. L. No. 93-344, at § 402 (codified as 2 U.S.C. § 653) (limiting the section's requirements to "each bill or resolution of a public character" reported by a committee (emphasis added)), with, e.g., JANE A. HUDIBURG, CONG. RES. SERV., R46603, BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, NOMINATIONS, AND TREATIES: CHARACTERISTICS AND EXAMPLES OF USE 4 (2020), <https://www.crs.gov/reports/pdf/R46603> (noting that simple resolutions govern only "the internal affairs of one chamber" of congress and are not used for enacting public law).

requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office a statement as to whether this legislation contains any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* To the extent that clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives may apply, the general performance goals and objectives of this resolution are to recognize and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the National Association of Conservation Districts and their commitment to our lands.

#### EARMARK STATEMENT

Clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply to reports on simple resolutions. However, the Committee finds that the legislation 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.

#### UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

Section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act does not apply to committee reports on simple resolutions. However, the Committee finds that the legislation contains no unfunded mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

#### EXISTING PROGRAMS

Clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply to committee reports on simple resolutions. However, the Committee finds that the legislation does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program.

#### APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act does not apply to committee reports on simple resolutions. In any event, 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

The Committee finds that the resolution, if agreed to by the House, would not have the force of law and therefore would have no preemptive effect over state, local, or tribal law.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

Clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply to committee reports on simple resolutions. In any event, the Committee finds that this legislation, if agreed to by the House, would make no changes to existing law.

SUPPLEMENTAL, MINORITY, ADDITIONAL, OR DISSENTING VIEWS  
None.

