

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT
LOCATION ACT

NOVEMBER 3, 2023.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

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

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1318]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1318) to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 1318 is to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

For the first 144 years of America's history, women did not have the right to vote. In the middle of the 19th Century, the women's suffrage movement emerged with the goal of securing this important constitutional right for women across the nation. In 1919, Congress passed a constitutional amendment (the 19th Amendment) granting women the right to vote, which was formally ratified by the states on August 18, 1920.

Under the Commemorative Works Act (CWA), any new monument or memorial in the District of Columbia or the surrounding area must be approved by an Act of Congress. Typically, once ap-

proved, a private organization will have seven years to raise the required funding for the commemorative work's construction and design. The CWA also established the "Reserve," which broadly encompasses what is known as the National Mall. The CWA found that the Reserve was "a substantially completed work of civic art" where the siting of new commemorative works should be prohibited. In order to place a new commemorative work in the Reserve or near the Reserve, an additional Act of Congress is required. While this is somewhat rare, most recently Congress authorized a location within the Reserve for the Global War on Terrorism Memorial in 2021.

In December 2020, President Trump signed legislation authorizing the creation of a federal monument in Washington, D.C., to honor the women's suffrage movement and the historic passage of the 19th Amendment. That legislation empowered the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation to establish a commemorative work on federal land in D.C. or its environs. The bill required the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation to follow the standard legal framework established by the CWA and prohibited the use of federal funds for commemorative work.

H.R. 1318, the "Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act," authorizes the congressionally chartered Women's Suffrage National Monument to be placed in the Reserve. Under the CWA, this additional legislation is necessary for the Monument to be placed on the National Mall. Supporters of H.R. 1318 argue that this monument would be the first tribute to women's history on the National Mall. H.R. 1318 is a bipartisan bill being co-led by Representative Lesko (R-AZ). Senators Baldwin (D-WI) and Blackburn (R-TN) are leading companion legislation in the Senate.

While the text of the legislation does not specify a location within the Reserve for the Monument, it is the Committee's understanding that the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation has identified Constitution Gardens as the optimal location. The Committee also understands the Foundation would like to address the sizable, deferred maintenance backlog within Constitution Gardens in addition to building this Monument. The Committee believes Constitution Gardens could serve as an appropriate location for this Monument and encourages the National Park Service and the Foundation to work together on identifying a location of prominence within the Reserve for this important Monument. The Committee also encourages the National Park Service to work closely with the Foundation to ensure this Monument can be constructed and completed in time for the United States Semiquincentennial in 2026.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 1318 was introduced on March 1, 2023, by Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands. On July 13, 2023, the Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on the bill. On July 26, 2023, the Full Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Federal Lands was discharged by unanimous consent. The bill was then ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by a roll call vote of 32 yeas to 0 nays, as follows:

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 Federal Lands held on July 13, 2023.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 establishes the short title of the bill as the “Women’s Suffrage National Monument Location Act”.

Section 2. Women’s Suffrage National Monument

Section 2 establishes the location for the Women’s Suffrage National Monument within the Reserve in Washington, D.C. under the CWA.

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:

H.R. 1318, Women’s Suffrage National Monument Location Act			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 26, 2023			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2023	2023-2028	2023-2033
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 1318 would require the Women’s Suffrage National Monument to be located within the Reserve in Washington, D.C. The Reserve is the public land between the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol that includes the White House and the Jefferson Memorial.

Public Law 116–217, enacted on December 17, 2020, authorized the establishment of a commemorative work on federal land in

Washington, D.C., but not on the National Mall. Because H.R. 1318 would only change the location of the monument, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would not affect federal spending.

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

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

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 is to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes.

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 the Congressional Budget Office, H.R. 1318 contains no unfunded mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

Directed Rule Making. This bill does not contain any directed rule makings. OR This bill directs an executive branch official to conduct the following specific 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.

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

As ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources,
H.R. 1318 makes no changes in existing law.

