

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 672

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to provide funds for the removal of Confederate symbols, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Mr. RUSH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to provide funds for the removal of Confederate symbols, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rejecting and Elimini-
5 nating the Foul Use of Symbols Exulting Confederate
6 Principles Act” or the “REFUSE Confederate Principles
7 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EMANCIPATION HISTORIC PRESERVATION PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary,
4 in consultation with the Director, shall establish, within
5 the National Park Service, a program to be known as the
6 “Emancipation Historic Preservation Program” to—

7 (1) award grants to eligible entities in accord-
8 ance with this section to—

9 (A) remove a Confederate symbol;

10 (B) remove and replace a Confederate
11 symbol with an alternative monument, memo-
12 rial, statue, commemorative structure, symbol,
13 or signage;

14 (C) remove and replace a Confederate sym-
15 bol with an alternative monument, memorial,
16 statue, commemorative structure, symbol, or
17 signage to commemorate or depict the freedom
18 of enslaved African Americans; and

19 (D) remove and transfer a Confederate
20 symbol to a State historic preservation program
21 as defined in section 60.3 of title 36, Code of
22 Federal Regulations; and

23 (2) provide technical assistance to eligible enti-
24 ties related to the activities described in paragraph
25 (1).

1 (b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
2 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to applications that
3 include activities described in subsection (a)(1)(C) and
4 (a)(1)(D).

5 (c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
6 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the
7 Secretary an application at such time, in such manner,
8 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
9 quire, including—

10 (1) a plan for how the eligible entity will use
11 grant funds to carry out one or more of the activi-
12 ties described in subsection (a)(1);

13 (2) if the application is for activities described
14 in subsection (a)(1)(C), information demonstrating
15 the relevance of the eligible entity's application to
16 activities described in subsection (a)(1)(C); and

17 (3) if the application is for activities described
18 in subsection (a)(1)(D), information identifying the
19 eligible entity as a State historic preservation pro-
20 gram as defined in section 60.3 of title 36, Code of
21 Federal Regulations for activities described in sub-
22 section (a)(1)(D).

23 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
24 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to provide
25 grants under this section, \$15,000,000 for each fiscal year

1 through 2031, of which \$9,000,000 for each fiscal year
2 shall be made available to State historic preservation pro-
3 grams as defined in section 60.3 of title 36, Code of Fed-
4 eral Regulations, for costs related to the removal, transfer,
5 and storage of Confederate symbols under subsection
6 (a)(1)(D).

7 **SEC. 3. LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FUNDS.**

8 None of the funds made available by this Act may
9 be used by the Secretary, the Director, or an eligible entity
10 for the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, recon-
11 struction, or new construction of a Confederate symbol.

12 **SEC. 4. REPORTS.**

13 (a) **GRANTEE REPORTS TO SECRETARY AND DIREC-**
14 **TOR.**—Not later than 90 days after the earlier of the date
15 of expiration of a project period or the completion of a
16 project, each entity that receives a grant under this Act
17 shall submit to the Secretary and the Director a final re-
18 port containing such information as the Secretary may re-
19 quire.

20 (b) **ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than
21 October 31 of each calendar year after the enactment of
22 this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
23 of the progress of the grant program established pursuant
24 to this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) CONFEDERATE SYMBOL.—The term “Con-
4 federate symbol” includes—

5 (A) a Confederate flag; or

6 (B) a monument, memorial, statue, com-
7 memorative structure, symbol, or signage that
8 honors a Confederate leader, Confederate sol-
9 dier, the Confederate States of America, or the
10 Confederacy in general.

11 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
12 the Director of the National Park Service.

13 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
14 ty” means—

15 (A) a State;

16 (B) a political subdivision of a State, in-
17 cluding—

18 (i) a city; and

19 (ii) a county;

20 (C) a territory or insular possession of the
21 United States;

22 (D) the District of Columbia;

23 (E) an Indian Tribe (which has the mean-
24 ing given the term “Indian tribe” in section 4
25 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education
26 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

1 (F) a special purpose district, including
2 park districts;

3 (G) an academic institution; or

4 (H) a State historic preservation program,
5 as defined in section 60.3 of title 36, Code of
6 Federal Regulations.

7 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
8 the Secretary of the Interior.

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