
NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM ACT

JULY 17, 2018.—Ordered to be printed

Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1900]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 1900) to designate the Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio, as the National Veterans Memorial and Museum, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 1900 is to designate the Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio as the “National Veterans Memorial and Museum.”

BACKGROUND AND NEED

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM) is currently under construction in Columbus, Ohio. According to the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation, the NVMM will seek to honor, connect, inspire, and educate people of the United States about the service and sacrifice of veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

When completed, the NVMM will be the only public museum of its kind that exists for the exclusive purpose of interpreting the collective experiences of veterans of the United States of America across all eras, conflicts, and branches of the military. The NVMM aims to attract and educate a diverse group of audiences from across the country through visitor-centered, interactive, and participatory exhibits. The NVMM also seeks to preserve the stories and legacy of service so that visitors can conduct a critical

evaluation of the history and evolution of the United States through the lens of the military experience.

The NVMM plans to open in late 2018.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

H.R. 1900 was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Stivers on April 4, 2017, and referred to the Committees on Natural Resources and Veterans' Affairs. The Veterans' Affairs Committee favorably reported H.R. 1900, as amended (H. Rept. 115–399, Part I), on November 7, 2017, and the Natural Resources Committee discharged H.R. 1900 on the same day. On November 7, 2017, H.R. 1900 passed the House of Representatives by voice vote.

Similar legislation, S. 841, was introduced by Senators Portman and Brown on April 5, 2017. The Senate Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on S. 841 on July 19, 2017.

In the 114th Congress, Senators Portman and Brown introduced similar legislation, S. 3342, on September 15, 2016. In the House of Representatives, Rep. Stivers introduced companion legislation, H.R. 6038, on September 15, 2016.

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources met in open business session on May 17, 2018, and ordered H.R. 1900 favorably reported.

The Senate passed H.R. 1900 on June 6, 2018, without amendment, by voice vote.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on May 17, 2018, by a majority voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass H.R. 1900.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 contains the short title.

Section 2. Designation of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

Section 2(a) designates the memorial and museum currently under construction on an approximately seven-acre area on West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, bounded by the Scioto River and the Scioto Greenway, as the “National Veterans Memorial and Museum,” subject to the condition contained in subsection (b).

Subsection (b) stipulates that the designation may be withdrawn no earlier than five years after the date on which the museum opens to the public, pursuant to an Act of Congress, if the progress and operation of the museum are found to be unsatisfactory based on the report submitted, as required in subsection (c).

Subsection (c) requires a report to Congress on the memorial and the museum by the earlier of either 90 days after the date of enactment or 30 days before the date on which the memorial and museum is first open to the public. The report shall include the projected budget for the memorial and museum for the five-year period beginning on its expected opening date; a description of the outreach conducted by the memorial and museum to veterans across

the United States to receive input about the design and contents; a description of the process by which decisions are made about the contents of the displayed exhibits; a description of the organizational structure; a copy of the bylaws and rules; and a list of any organizations or entities that have accredited the memorial and museum.

Subsection (d) clarifies that the national memorial and museum is not a unit of the National Park System, and the designation shall not be construed to require Federal funds to be expended for any purpose related to the national memorial and museum.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The following estimate of the costs of this measure has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office:

H.R. 1900 would designate a memorial and museum, currently being constructed by a non-profit organization in Columbus, Ohio, as the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. The act would require the director of the new museum to submit a report to the Congress on the memorial and museum's progress and operation. H.R. 1900 would clarify that neither part of the facility would be a unit of the National Park System and that the designation under the act would not require federal funds to be expended. Thus, CBO estimates that H.R. 1900 would have no effect on the federal budget.

Enacting H.R. 1900 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1900 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

H.R. 1900 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Logan Smith. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 1900. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of H.R. 1900, as ordered reported.

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

H.R. 1900, as ordered reported, does not contain any congressionally directed spending items, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The testimony provided by the Department of the Interior at the July 19, 2017, hearing on S. 841, similar legislation to H.R. 1900, follows:

STATEMENT OF ROBERT VOGEL, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE IN-
TERIOR

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 841, a bill to designate the Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio as the National Veterans Memorial and Museum.

The Department of the Interior (Department) defers to the Department of Veterans Affairs for a position on S. 841 since the purpose of the legislation is to confer a title on a memorial and museum designed to honor veterans. The memorial is located at a site that is not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and this bill does not provide for any management or funding by the National Park Service.

The Columbus Downtown Development Corporation broke ground on the Veterans Memorial and Museum in December 2015. It is being built with support from the State of Ohio, Franklin County, and private individuals, foundations, and corporations. The museum will become the only one of its kind that exists for the exclusive purpose of interpreting the collective experience of veterans of the United States across all eras, conflicts, and branches of the military. It is expected to open in the summer of 2018.

We are concerned that this legislation proposes the use of the title "national" which could create an expectation among the general public that the memorial and museum has an affiliation with the National Park Service, or at least some connection to the Federal government. This is not the first time the issue of a "national" designation for a non-federal entity has arisen, nor is it likely to be the last. The Department respectfully encourages the committee to be thoughtful and judicious in any decision as to whether an entity that has no association with the Federal government should have a "national" title conferred by Congress.

Chairman Daines, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by the bill as ordered reported.