

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2895

To provide for the establishment of the National Lighthouse Museum.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 7, 1997

Mr. KILDEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the National Lighthouse
Museum.

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 “National Lighthouse
5 Museum Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

7 There is established a commission to be known as the
8 “National Lighthouse Museum Commission” (in this Act
9 referred to as the “Commission”).

10 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

1 (1) develop a fundraising plan, acquire a site,
2 and draft an operational proposal for establishing a
3 National Lighthouse Museum at a lighthouse-related
4 site that is within the United States and listed on
5 the National Register of Historic Places; and

6 (2) establish the National Lighthouse Museum
7 Corporation in accordance with this Act.

8 (b) REPORTS.—The Commission shall submit an an-
9 nual report to the Congress describing the activities of the
10 Commission during the preceding year.

11 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.**

12 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
13 shall be composed of 19 members appointed as follows:

14 (1) 1 by the National Conference of State His-
15 toric Preservation Officers.

16 (2) 13 by the National Lighthouse Museum
17 Feasibility Steering Committee.

18 (3) 1 by the Coast Guard.

19 (4) 1 by the Secretary of the Interior.

20 (5) 1 by the Secretary of the Smithsonian Insti-
21 tution.

22 (6) 1 by the National Trust for Historic Preser-
23 vation.

24 (7) 1 by the American Association of Museums.

25 (b) TERMS; VACANCIES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Members of the Commission
2 shall serve for the life of the Commission.

3 (2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission
4 shall be filled in the manner in which the original
5 appointment was made.

6 (c) RATES OF PAY.—Members of the Commission
7 shall serve without pay.

8 (d) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Com-
9 mission shall receive travel expenses, including per diem
10 in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702
11 and 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

12 (e) BYLAWS.—The Commission shall adopt bylaws to
13 carry out its functions under this Act.

14 (f) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Commis-
15 sion shall be elected by the Commission from among its
16 members.

17 (g) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the
18 call of the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall convene the
19 first meeting for not later than January 1, 1999. One-
20 third of the members of the Commission shall constitute
21 a quorum, and any vacancy in the Commission shall not
22 affect its powers to function. The Commission may adopt
23 rules to govern its proceedings.

24 (h) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
25 on the earlier of—

1 (1) 5 years after the date of completion of ap-
2 pointment of the members of the Commission; or

3 (2) the completion of appointment of the initial
4 board of directors of the National Lighthouse Cor-
5 poration under section 6(d).

6 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR COMMISSION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may accept from
8 the National Lighthouse Museum Feasibility Steering
9 Committee such administrative support as may be nec-
10 essary to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

11 (b) ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES.—Upon
12 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of Gen-
13 eral Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reim-
14 bursable basis, the administrative support services nec-
15 essary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities
16 under this Act.

17 **SEC. 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MU-**
18 **SEUM CORPORATION.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall estab-
21 lish, under the laws of the State in which is located
22 the site acquired under section 3(a)(1) for the Na-
23 tional Lighthouse Museum and in accordance with
24 this section, the National Lighthouse Museum Cor-
25 poration (in this Act referred to as the “Corpora-

1 tion”). Subject to paragraph (2), the Corporation is
2 a federally chartered corporation.

3 (2) EXPIRATION OF CHARTER.—If the Corpora-
4 tion does not comply with any provision of this sec-
5 tion, the charter granted by this section expires.

6 (b) PURPOSES.—The purpose of the Corporation is
7 to establish the National Lighthouse Museum as provided
8 for by the Commission under section 3(a)(1).

9 (c) BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS.—

10 (1) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The board of di-
11 rectors of the Corporation and the responsibilities of
12 the board shall be as provided in its articles of incor-
13 poration. The Commission shall appoint the initial
14 members of the board of directors by not later than
15 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

16 (2) OFFICERS.—The officers of the Corporation
17 and the election of its officers shall be as provided
18 in the articles of incorporation.

19 (d) POWERS.—The Corporation shall have only the
20 powers provided in its bylaws and articles of incorporation
21 filed in each State in which it is incorporated.

22 (e) RESTRICTIONS.—

23 (1) STOCK AND DIVIDENDS.—The Corporation
24 may not issue stock or declare or pay a dividend.

1 (2) POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.—The Corporation
2 or a director or officer as such may not contribute
3 to, support, or participate in any political activity or
4 in any manner attempt to influence legislation.

5 (3) DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME OR ASSETS.—
6 The income or assets of the Corporation may not
7 inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, a direc-
8 tor, officer, or member during the life of the charter
9 granted by this section. This paragraph does not
10 prevent the payment of reasonable compensation to
11 an officer or reimbursement for actual necessary ex-
12 penses in amounts approved by the board of direc-
13 tors.

14 (4) LOANS.—The Corporation may not make a
15 loan to a director, officer, or employee.

16 (5) CLAIM OF GOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL OR
17 AUTHORIZATION.—The Corporation may not claim
18 congressional approval or the authority of the Unit-
19 ed States Government for any of its activities.

20 (f) DUTY TO MAINTAIN CORPORATE AND TAX-EX-
21 EMPT STATUS.—

22 (1) CORPORATE STATUS.—The Corporation
23 shall maintain its status as a corporation incor-
24 porated under the laws of the State referred to in
25 subsection (a)(1).

1 (2) TAX-EXEMPT STATUS.—The Corporation
2 shall maintain its status as an organization de-
3 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
4 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under sec-
5 tion 501(a) of that Code.

6 (g) RECORDS AND INSPECTION.—

7 (1) RECORDS.—The Corporation shall keep—

8 (A) correct and complete records of ac-
9 count;

10 (B) minutes of the proceedings of its mem-
11 bers, board of directors, and committees; and

12 (C) at its principal office, a record of the
13 names and addresses of its members entitled to
14 vote.

15 (2) INSPECTION.—A member entitled to vote,
16 or an agent or attorney of the member, may inspect
17 the records of the Corporation for any proper pur-
18 pose, at any reasonable time.

19 (h) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—The Corporation shall
20 comply with the law on services of process of each State
21 in which it is incorporated and each State in which it car-
22 ries on activities.

23 (i) LIABILITY FOR ACTS OF OFFICERS AND
24 AGENTS.—The Corporation is liable for the acts of its offi-
25 cers and agents acting within the scope of their authority.

1 (j) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Corporation shall submit
2 an annual report to the Congress on the activities of the
3 Corporation during the prior fiscal year. The report may
4 not be printed as a public document.

5 (k) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
6 term “State” includes the District of Columbia and the
7 territories and possessions of the United States.

8 **SEC. 7. OPERATION OF NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Lighthouse Mu-
10 seum established under this Act shall operate under the
11 direction and control of the Corporation.

12 (b) FACILITIES.—In addition to the site at which the
13 National Lighthouse Museum is established under section
14 3, the museum shall have a storage facility located near
15 the site for the care, conservation, and maintenance of ar-
16 tifacts in the collection of the museum.

17 (c) SUPPORT TO OTHER MUSEUMS.—The National
18 Lighthouse Museum shall provide support to other muse-
19 ums that interpret the history of aids to navigation in the
20 United States.

21 (d) DESIGNATION OF COLLECTION.—The collection
22 of artifacts of the National Lighthouse Museum shall be
23 known as the National Lighthouse Collection.

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