

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2070

To provide for an Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 12, 1998

Mr. DEWINE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

A BILL

To provide for an Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program.

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. UNDERGROUND RAILROAD EDUCATIONAL AND**
4 **CULTURAL PROGRAM.**

5 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the
6 “Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Act”.

7 (b) **PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.**—The Secretary of
8 Education, in consultation and cooperation with the Sec-
9 retary of the Interior, is authorized to make grants to 1
10 or more nonprofit educational organizations that are es-

1 tablished to research, display, interpret, and collect arti-
2 facts relating to the history of the Underground Railroad.

3 (c) GRANT AGREEMENT.—Each nonprofit edu-
4 cational organization awarded a grant under this section
5 shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Edu-
6 cation. Each such agreement shall require the organiza-
7 tion—

8 (1) to establish a facility to house, display, and
9 interpret the artifacts related to the history of the
10 Underground Railroad;

11 (2) to demonstrate substantial private support
12 for the facility through the implementation of a pub-
13 lic-private partnership between a State or local pub-
14 lic entity and a private entity for the support of the
15 facility, which private entity shall provide matching
16 funds for the support of the facility in an amount
17 equal to 4 times the amount of the contribution of
18 the State or local public entity, except that not more
19 than 20 percent of the matching funds may be pro-
20 vided by the Federal Government;

21 (3) to create an endowment to fund any and all
22 shortfalls in the costs of the on-going operations of
23 the facility;

24 (4) to establish a network of satellite centers
25 throughout the United States to help disseminate in-

1 formation regarding the Underground Railroad
2 throughout the United States, if such satellite cen-
3 ters raise 80 percent of the funds required to estab-
4 lish the satellite centers from non-Federal public and
5 private sources;

6 (5) to establish the capability to electronically
7 link the facility with other local and regional facili-
8 ties that have collections and programs which inter-
9 pret the history of the Underground Railroad; and

10 (6) to submit, for each fiscal year for which the
11 organization receives funding under this section, a
12 report to the Secretary of Education that contains—

13 (A) a description of the programs and ac-
14 tivities supported by the funding;

15 (B) the audited financial statement of the
16 organization for the preceding fiscal year;

17 (C) a plan for the programs and activities
18 to be supported by the funding as the Secretary
19 may require; and

20 (D) an evaluation of the programs and ac-
21 tivities supported by the funding as the Sec-
22 retary may require.

23 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
25 \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 1999, \$6,000,000 for fiscal year

1 2000, \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, \$3,000,000 for fis-
2 cal year 2002, and \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

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