

Calendar No. 541

105TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
{ 105-302

COASTAL HERITAGE TRAIL ROUTE

SEPTEMBER 8 (legislative day, AUGUST 31), 1998.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1016]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 1016) to authorize appropriations for the Coastal Heritage Trail Route in New Jersey, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

The purpose of S. 1016 is to increase the appropriations ceiling authorized for the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route from \$1,000,000 to \$4,000,000, and to extend the authority for National Park Service participation for five additional years.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

The New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route (Trail) is a vehicular theme trail that links nationally and regionally significant natural and cultural resources along the Atlantic Coasts of New Jersey and Delaware.

The Trail is managed jointly by three State agencies in partnership with the National Park Service and encompasses a 275 mile route from Perth Amboy on Raritan Bay, around Cape May to Deepwater, north of the Delaware Memorial Bridge. The Trail is divided into five regions, each region will eventually have a welcome center to provide information and exhibits. Travelers can access the Trail at any point along the 275 mile route and follow signs bearing the Trail's coastal logo or visit one of the three new welcome centers developed under this program.

The Trail was originally established in 1988 under Public Law 100–515 and was amended in 1994. Public Law 103–243 authorized \$1 million of additional funds and a five year sunset provision for activities carried out by the Secretary.

Staff support is provided by the National Park Service; however, a lack of appropriations with which to leverage grants and State matching funds put the project behind schedule. S. 1016 increases the Trail's funding ceiling to \$4 million to cover development and technical assistance as outlined in the Trail's Implementation Plan. S. 1016 also authorizes a five-year extension of the sunset provision for activities carried out by the Secretary.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 1016 was introduced on July 14, 1997 by Senators Lautenberg and Torricelli and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation and Recreation held a hearing on S. 1016 on June 18, 1998.

At its business meeting on July 29, 1998, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered S. 1016 favorably reported.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AND TABULATION OF VOTES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in an open business session on July 29, 1998, by a unanimous voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass S. 1016, as described herein.

SUMMARY OF S. 1016

S. 1016 amends section 6 of Public Law 100–515 increasing the Trail's authorized funding ceiling from \$1 million to \$4 million for development and technical assistance approved in the Trail's Implementation Plan. S. 1016 also provides for a five-year extension of the 1998 sunset provision, ending in fiscal year 2003.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

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

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, August 14, 1998.

Hon. FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 1016, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Coastal Heritage Trail Route in New Jersey, and for other purposes.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis.

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL, *Director.*

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

S. 1016—A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coastal Heritage Trail Route in New Jersey, and for other purposes

S. 1016 would increase the existing authorization for developing the Coastal Heritage Trail Route from \$1 million to \$4 million. Other provisions of the bill would have no effect on the federal budget. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the federal government would spend \$3 million over the next five years to implement S. 1016. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, and tribal governments. Any projects funded with appropriations authorized by this bill would require equal matching funds from nonfederal sources, which may include the state of New Jersey and local governments in the state. Such spending would be voluntary on the part of these governments.

The CBO staff contact in Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, 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 S. 1016. 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 enactment of S. 1016, as ordered reported.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The testimony of the Department of the Interior at the Subcommittee hearing follows:

STATEMENT OF DESTRY JARVIS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to provide your subcommittee with the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1016, to authorize appropriations for the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route.

This bill would increase the appropriations authorized for the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route from \$1,000,000 to \$4,000,000, and extend the authority for National Park Service participation in the trail for five years,

from May 1999 to May 2004. We support enactment of this bill.

The Act of October 20, 1988, as amended in 1994, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to designate a vehicular tour route and to prepare an inventory of sites along the route. In addition the Secretary was authorized to prepare a coordinated interpretive program for the trail in order to provide for public appreciation, education, understanding and enjoyment of the nationally significant sites in coastal New Jersey.

The National Park Service, in partnership with the State, local governments, and other public and private entities, has prepared and is implementing a comprehensive plan based on five interpretive themes that link natural and cultural resources spread over 300 miles of coastal New Jersey. The trail is demonstrating the potential of public/private partnerships, allowing the NPS to assist in resource preservation, interpretation and public education in a cost-efficient manner, primarily through the development of exhibits, audio-visual programs, and other technical assistance. Every federal dollar spent is matched by contributions from the partners. No federal funds are used for operation, maintenance, or repair of any road or related structure.

The New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail celebrated its opening on September 27th, 1993, with the introduction of the Maritime History theme trail. Other trail themes and sites relate to Coastal Habitats, Historic Settlements, Wildlife Migration, and Relaxation and Inspiration. It is projected that, when completed, the trail will include over 100 wayside exhibits, various local information centers, and five regional welcome centers all owned and operated by someone other than the National Park Service.

This legislation would enable the National Park Service to continue implementation of the trail plan, as supported by the public and our partners in the Implementation Guide, a blueprint for overall trail development. Without additional time and funding, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route will be left incomplete. The National Park Service supports this legislation, its passage would allow us to finish implementing the trail's plan.

This concludes my prepared remarks.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill S. 1016, as ordered reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman);

(Public Law 100-515, as amended—October 20, 1988)

* * * * *

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

- (1) by striking "There" and inserting "(a) There"; and
- (2) by adding at the end the following:

(b)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), there are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the purposes of the Act **[\$1,000,000]** *\$4,000,000*, which is in addition to any sums appropriated for such purposes for use during fiscal years ending on or before September 30, 1993.

* * * * *

(c) The authorities provided to the Secretary under this Act shall terminate **[five]** *ten* years after the date of enactment of this subsection.