Calendar No. 51

106TH CONGRESS *1st Session* | SENATE | REPORT 106–24

COASTAL HERITAGE TRAIL ROUTE IN NEW JERSEY

MARCH 17, 1999.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 171]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the Act (H.R. 171) 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 Act do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

The purpose of H.R. 171 is to increase the appropriations ceiling authorized for the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route from $1 million to $4 million, 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 route and follow signs bearing the Trail's coastal logo or visit one of the three new welcome centers developed under this program.

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The Trail was originally established in 1988 under Public Law 100–515. The Act was amended in 1994 to authorize $1 million in 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. H.R. 171 increases the Trail's funding ceiling to $4 million to cover development and technical assistance as outlined in the Trail's Implementation Plan. H.R. 171 also authorizes a five-year extension of the sunset provision for activities carried out by the Secretary.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The House of Representatives passed H.R. 171 on February 23, 1999. On February 24, 1999 the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation held a hearing on an identical companion measure introduced by Senators Lautenberg and Torricelli, S. 362.

During the 105th Congress a similar bill, S. 1916, was introduced by Senators Lautenberg and Torricelli on July 14, 1997. 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 without amendment. S. 1016 was passed by the Senate without amendment on October 2, 1998. No further action was taken by the House of Representatives.

At its business meeting on March 4, 1999, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered H.R. 171 favorably reported, without amendment.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in an open business session on March 4, 1999, by a unanimous voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass H.R. 171, as described herein.

SUMMARY OF H.R. 171

H.R. 171 amends Section 6 of Public Law 100–515 to increase the trail's authorized funding ceiling from $1 million to $4 million for development and technical assistance approved in the trail's Implementation Plan. H.R. 171 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 the cost of this measure has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 10, 1999.

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 H.R. 171, an act 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 contacts are Deborah Reis (for federal costs), and Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact).

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON
(For Dan L. Crippen, Director).

Enclosure

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

H.R. 171—A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coastal Heritage Trail Route in New Jersey, and for other purposes

H.R. 171 would increase the existing authorization for developing the Coastal Heritage Trail Route from $1 million to $4 million. Other provisions of the act 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 H.R. 171. The act would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 171 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. 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 bill would have no other significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contacts are Deborah Reis (for federal costs), and Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

I 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. 171. 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 H.R. 171, as ordered reported.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A representative from the National Park Service testified in support of S. 362, the identical companion measure to H.R. 171. The National Park Service also testified in support of H.R. 171 before the House Committee on Resources.

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 H.R. 171, 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)

* * * * * * *

Section 6. Authorization of Appropriations.

(1) by striking "There" and inserting "(a) There"; and

(2) by adding at the end of 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.

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