

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9691

To establish the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. CLYBURN, and Mr. COHEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

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 “Julius Rosenwald and
5 Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

8 (1) to establish a unit of the National Park
9 System—

1 (A) to commemorate the life and legacy of
2 Julius Rosenwald, who—

3 (i) was the son of German-Jewish im-
4 migrants;

5 (ii) helped make Sears, Roebuck and
6 Co. the leading retailer in the United
7 States for many years;

8 (iii) used his enormous fortune to be-
9 come a visionary philanthropist; and

10 (iv) partnered with Booker T. Wash-
11 ington and approximately 5,000 African-
12 American communities in the segregated
13 South to build schools for children who
14 had few or no educational opportunities;

15 (B) to recognize the impact of the Rosen-
16 wald Schools, which—

17 (i) were constructed between 1912
18 and 1932 in 15 States; and

19 (ii) educated more than 600,000 Afri-
20 can-American children, including a number
21 of graduates who became leaders in the
22 civil rights movement, such as—

23 (I) Representative John Lewis;

24 (II) Maya Angelou;

25 (III) Medgar Evers;

1 (IV) Nina Simone; and

2 (V) Carlotta Walls LaNier;

3 (C) to honor other important parts of the
4 legacy of Julius Rosenwald, including—

5 (i) the Julius Rosenwald Fund,
6 which—

7 (I) between 1928 and 1948,
8 awarded fellowships to nearly 900 tal-
9 ented men and women—

10 (aa) $\frac{2}{3}$ of whom were Afri-
11 can Americans; and

12 (bb) including—

13 (AA) Marian Anderson;

14 (BB) Langston
15 Hughes;

16 (CC) Ralph Bunche;

17 (DD) James Baldwin;

18 (EE) Dr. Charles
19 Drew;

20 (FF) Ralph Ellison;

21 and

22 (GG) Woody Guthrie;

23 and

24 (II) supported early legal cases of
25 the National Association for the Ad-

1 vancement of Colored People that led
2 to the Supreme Court opinion in
3 Brown v. Board of Education of To-
4 peka, 347 U.S. 483 (1954);

5 (ii) founding the Jewish Federation of
6 Metropolitan Chicago;

7 (iii) service as a member of the board
8 of Jane Addams' Hull House for 20 years;

9 (iv) being a founding donor of the
10 Chicago Museum of Science and Industry;

11 and

12 (v) otherwise embodying social justice;

13 (2) to preserve a small number of representa-
14 tive sites of the Rosenwald Schools, including the
15 San Domingo School in Sharptown, Maryland, the
16 St. George Rosenwald School in St. George, South
17 Carolina, and other sites across the south to reflect
18 the scope and impact of the Rosenwald Schools, and
19 to establish a headquarters and visitor center for the
20 Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National
21 Historical Park within or near the former Sears
22 Merchandising Complex in North Lawndale in the
23 city of Chicago, Illinois, to enlighten visitors on—

24 (A) the overall life and legacy of Julius
25 Rosenwald; and

1 (B) the ways in which the Rosenwald
2 Schools—

3 (i) affected African-American edu-
4 cation in the South; and

5 (ii) helped to make the United States
6 a more democratic society; and

7 (3) to establish a network in the National Park
8 Service to connect the remaining Rosenwald Schools
9 to disseminate more fully the story of the Rosenwald
10 Schools throughout the United States.

11 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map
14 prepared by the National Park Service entitled “Ju-
15 lius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National
16 Historical Park”, numbered _____, and
17 dated _____.

18 (2) NETWORK.—The term “Network” means
19 the Rosenwald Schools National Network established
20 under section 5(a)(1).

21 (3) PARK.—The term “Park” means the Julius
22 Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Histor-
23 ical Park established by section 4(a)(1).

24 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
25 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 **SEC. 4. JULIUS ROSENWALD AND ROSENWALD SCHOOLS**
2 **NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
5 there is established as a unit of the National Park
6 System the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald
7 Schools National Historical Park.

8 (2) DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—

9 (A) DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT.—The Park
10 shall not be established until the date on which
11 the Secretary determines that a sufficient quan-
12 tity of land or interests in land within the
13 boundary of the Park has been acquired to con-
14 stitute a manageable unit.

15 (B) FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—The
16 Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register
17 notice of a determination under subparagraph
18 (A).

19 (b) BOUNDARY.—The Park shall consist of the fol-
20 lowing:

21 (1) The 40-acre site selected for the Sears mer-
22 chandising complex constructed in 1905–1906,
23 which includes the original Sears Administration
24 Building, the catalog building, the power plant, and
25 the Nichols Tower, which now comprise the Sears
26 Roebuck and Company Complex National Historic

1 Landmark, and the Sears Sunken Garden directly
2 across the street from the Sears Administration
3 Building.

4 (2) The San Domingo Rosenwald School in
5 Sharptown, Maryland, as generally depicted on the
6 Map.

7 (3) Any Rosenwald School or other area des-
8 ignated by Congress to be included in the Park after
9 the date of enactment of this Act.

10 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall admin-
12 ister land within the boundary of the Park in ac-
13 cordance with—

14 (A) this section; and

15 (B) the laws generally applicable to units
16 of the National Park System, including—

17 (i) sections 100101(a), 100751(a),
18 100752, 100753, and 102101 of title 54,
19 United States Code; and

20 (ii) chapters 1003 and 3201 of title
21 54, United States Code.

22 (2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—To further the pur-
24 poses of this section and notwithstanding chap-
25 ter 63 of title 31, United States Code, the Sec-

1 retary may enter into cooperative agreements
2 with the State of Illinois, the city of Chicago,
3 the State of Maryland, other appropriate State
4 and local government officials, and public and
5 nonpublic entities, subject to subparagraph
6 (B)—

7 (i) to support collaborative interpre-
8 tive and educational programs at non-Fed-
9 eral historic properties within the boundary
10 of the Park; and

11 (ii) to identify, interpret, and provide
12 assistance for the preservation of non-Fed-
13 eral land within the boundary of the Park
14 and at sites related to the Park but located
15 outside the boundaries of the Park, includ-
16 ing providing for—

17 (I) the placement of directional
18 and interpretive signage;

19 (II) exhibits; and

20 (III) technology-based and other
21 interpretive devices.

22 (B) PUBLIC ACCESS.—A cooperative agree-
23 ment entered into under this paragraph shall
24 provide for reasonable public access to any
25 property subject to the cooperative agreement.

1 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may use
3 appropriated funds to carry out a project to
4 mark, interpret, improve, restore, or provide
5 technical assistance with respect to the preser-
6 vation and interpretation of any property that
7 is subject to a cooperative agreement under
8 paragraph (2).

9 (B) INCONSISTENT PURPOSES.—Any pay-
10 ment made by the Secretary under this section
11 shall be subject to an agreement that the con-
12 version, use, or disposal of a project carried out
13 under subparagraph (A) for purposes that are
14 inconsistent with the purposes of this section,
15 as determined by the Secretary, shall result in
16 a right of the United States to reimbursement
17 in an amount that is the greater of—

18 (i) the amount provided by the Sec-
19 retary to the project; and

20 (ii) an amount equal to the increase in
21 the value of the project that is attributable
22 to the funds, as determined by the Sec-
23 retary as of the date of the conversion,
24 use, or disposal.

25 (4) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
2 graph (B), the Secretary may, within the Na-
3 tional Historic Landmark District in Chicago,
4 Illinois—

5 (i) acquire a facade or other easement
6 interest on the Nichols Tower; and

7 (ii) enter into a lease or other agree-
8 ment for purposes of providing for admin-
9 istration of the Park and appropriate vis-
10 itor services.

11 (B) OUTSIDE OF PARK BOUNDARY.—If the
12 Secretary is unable to identify appropriate
13 space for administration and visitor services in
14 accordance with subparagraph (A)(ii), the Sec-
15 retary may acquire the appropriate land or in-
16 terests in land, or enter into other appropriate
17 agreements, in the vicinity of, but outside the
18 boundary of the Park, for administration and
19 visitor services.

20 (C) LIMITATION.—The San Domingo
21 School in Sharptown, Maryland, may only be
22 acquired by the Secretary under this section
23 by—

24 (i) donation;

25 (ii) purchase with donated funds; or

1 (iii) exchange.

2 (5) INTERPRETATION.—To further the dissemi-
3 nation of information about the life and legacy of
4 Julius Rosenwald, with an emphasis on the partner-
5 ship of Julius Rosenwald with Booker T. Wash-
6 ington and the approximately 5,000 communities in
7 the South that led to the establishment and success
8 of the Rosenwald Schools, the Secretary shall in-
9 clude interpretation of the story of Julius Rosenwald
10 at—

11 (A) the Lincoln Home National Historic
12 Site in the State of Illinois, within the boundary
13 of which is located the home of Julius Rosen-
14 wald; and

15 (B) the Tuskegee Institute National His-
16 toric Site in the State of Alabama, which was
17 founded by Booker T. Washington for the edu-
18 cation of African Americans and at which archi-
19 tects designed the early Rosenwald Schools.

20 (6) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3 fis-
21 cal years after the date on which funds are first
22 made available to carry out this section, the Sec-
23 retary shall complete a general management plan for
24 the Park in accordance with—

1 (A) section 100502 of title 54, United
2 States Code; and

3 (B) any other applicable laws.

4 **SEC. 5. ROSENWALD SCHOOLS NATIONAL NETWORK.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

6 (1) establish, within the National Park Service,
7 a program to be known as the “Rosenwald Schools
8 National Network”;

9 (2) as soon as practicable after the date of en-
10 actment of this Act, solicit proposals from sites, fa-
11 cilities, and programs interested in being a part of
12 the Network; and

13 (3) administer the Network.

14 (b) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out
15 the Network, the Secretary shall—

16 (1) review studies and reports to complement
17 and not duplicate studies of the historical impor-
18 tance of the Rosenwald Schools;

19 (2) produce and disseminate appropriate edu-
20 cational and promotional materials relating to the
21 life and work of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosen-
22 wald Schools that are part of the Network, such as
23 handbooks, maps, interpretive guides, or electronic
24 information;

1 (3) enter into appropriate cooperative agree-
2 ments and memoranda of understanding to provide
3 assistance, as appropriate;

4 (4)(A) create and adopt an official, uniform
5 symbol or device for the Network; and

6 (B) issue regulations for the use of the symbol
7 or device adopted under this paragraph;

8 (5) conduct research relating to the Rosenwald
9 Schools;

10 (6) make recommendations for any additional
11 Rosenwald School sites that should be considered for
12 inclusion within the Park due to the significance, in-
13 tegrity, and need for management by the National
14 Park Service of the sites; and

15 (7) have the authority to provide grants to Net-
16 work elements described in subsection (c).

17 (c) ELEMENTS.—The Network shall encompass the
18 following elements:

19 (1) All units and programs of the National
20 Park Service that are determined by the Secretary
21 to relate to the story of Julius Rosenwald and the
22 Rosenwald Schools.

23 (2) Other Federal, State, local, and privately
24 owned properties that the Secretary determines—

1 (A) relate to Julius Rosenwald and the
2 Rosenwald Schools; and

3 (B) are included in, or determined by the
4 Secretary to be eligible for inclusion in, the Na-
5 tional Register of Historic Places.

6 (3) Other governmental and nongovernmental
7 sites, facilities, and programs of an educational, re-
8 search, or interpretive nature that are directly re-
9 lated to Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald
10 Schools.

11 (d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDA
12 OF UNDERSTANDING.—To achieve the purposes of this
13 section and to ensure effective coordination of the Federal
14 and non-Federal elements of the Network and units and
15 programs of the National Park Service, the Secretary may
16 enter into cooperative agreements and memoranda of un-
17 derstanding with, and provide technical assistance to, the
18 heads of other Federal agencies, States, units of local gov-
19 ernment, regional governmental bodies, and private enti-
20 ties.

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