

LOUISIANA PURCHASE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

JULY 22, 2002.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HANSEN, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 356]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (S. 356) to establish a National Commission on the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of S. 356 is to establish a National Commission on the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase cost the United States \$15 million but it doubled the size of the country overnight and brought vast natural resources that had been untapped. To quote Tallyrand, “You have made a noble bargain for yourselves and I suppose you will make the most of it.” For the United States, it was only the beginning of an expansion that would stretch from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.

All or part of 15 States were created from the land acquired in this purchase. It made possible the travels of Lewis and Clark, whose invaluable insight into the peoples and land beyond the Mississippi River emboldened many Americans to search for a new life out West. Around the world, the American Frontier became synonymous with the search for spiritual, economic, and political freedom. The Louisiana Purchase helped shape the American destiny. Commemoration of the Louisiana Purchase and the related opening

of the West can enhance public understanding of the impact of the democratic westward expansion on American society.

This bill creates a Commission that will edify, publish, and display the importance of the Louisiana Purchase to all Americans. This bipartisan commission is partially modeled after the celebration of the American Bicentennial—striving to be inclusive of Americans. The commission will include important officials from each state created from the Purchase, museum and education officials, as well as members of Native American Tribes originating on the lands included in the Purchase. These officials will work together to recommend, organize, and oversee the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. Commission tasks include planning the issuance of coins, stamps, medals, and certificates of recognition. Under a coordinated effort with libraries, museums, and historical sites, they will develop education programs for exhibit and display. The commission will produce and publish educational materials focusing on the history and the impact of the Louisiana Purchase.

COMMITTEE ACTION

S. 356 was introduced on February 15, 2001, by Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. On July 10, 2002, the Full Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands was discharged from further consideration of the S. 356 by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered, and the bill was then ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

The functions of the proposed advisory committee authorized in the bill are not currently being nor could they be performed by one or more agencies, an advisory committee already in existence or by enlarging the mandate of an existing advisory committee.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that Rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill pre-

pared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in expenditures. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the commission authorized by this bill may accept and spend donations, but these activities would amount to less than \$500,000 annually and would offset each other.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to establish a National Commission on the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, July 16, 2002.

Hon. JAMES V. HANSEN,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 356, the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Commission Act.

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

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure.

S. 356—Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Commission Act

S. 356 would establish the National Commission on the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase, consisting of 20 members, including a representative from each of the 14 States that comprise the former Louisiana Territory. The central office of the commission would be in Washington, DC, with additional offices in New Orleans and St. Louis. The commission would plan and develop activities to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase in December 2003. For this purpose, the bill would authorize the commission to accept and spend private donations. S. 356 would direct the General Accounting Office to perform an annual audit of the commission's financial transactions. The act would authorize the appropriation of \$750,000 over the 2002–2004 period to carry out its provisions.

CBO estimates that the commission would need to spend about \$1.2 million over the 2003–2004 period to fulfill the requirements of the legislation—in particular, to set up and staff the three offices and prepare a report of its recommendations by December 2002. Because S. 356 would allow the commission to accept and spend

contributed funds, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply to the act. CBO estimates that any revenues from contributions and subsequent direct spending would be less than \$500,000 annually and would offset each other.

S. 356 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on State, local, or tribal governments.

On August 17, 2001, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 356, the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Commission Act, as passed by the Senate on August 3, 2001. The two versions of S. 356 are identical. Differences in the cost reflect a change in the estimate of when the legislation will be enacted.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford, who can be reached at 226–2860. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104–4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.

