

COMMEMORATING THE LITE, OR LIFETIME INNOVATIONS
OF THOMAS EDISON

NOVEMBER 10, 2005.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1096]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1096) to establish the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey as the successor to the Edison National Historic Site, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Act Commemorating the LITE, or Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

- (1) to recognize and pay tribute to Thomas Alva Edison and his innovations; and
- (2) to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance the Edison National Historic Site to ensure public use and enjoyment of the Site as an educational, scientific, and cultural center.

SEC. 3. THOMAS EDISON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established the Thomas Edison National Historical Park as a unit of the National Park System (hereafter the “Historical Park”).

(b) **BOUNDARIES.**—The Historical Park shall be comprised of—

- (1) all property owned by the United States in the Edison National Historic Site as well as all property authorized to be acquired by the Secretary of the Interior for inclusion in the Edison National Historic Site before the date of the enactment of this Act, as generally depicted on the map entitled the “Edison National Historic Site”, numbered 20003B, and dated April 1977; and

- (2) all property authorized to be acquired for inclusion in the Historical Park by this Act or other law enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.
- (c) MAP.—The map of the Historical Park shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the Historical Park in accordance with this Act and with the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Acts entitled “An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes,” approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) and “An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes,” approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(b) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—

(1) REAL PROPERTY.—The Secretary may acquire land or interests in land within the boundaries of the Historical Park, from willing sellers only, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(2) PERSONAL PROPERTY.—The Secretary may acquire personal property associated with, and appropriate for, interpretation of the Historical Park.

(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may consult and enter into cooperative agreements with interested entities and individuals to provide for the preservation, development, interpretation, and use of the Historical Park.

(d) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED LAW.—Public Law 87–628 (76 Stat. 428), regarding the establishment and administration of the Edison National Historic Site, is repealed.

(e) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the “Edison National Historic Site” shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Thomas Edison National Historical Park”.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 1096 is to establish the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey as the successor to the Edison National Historic Site.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

In 1955 the Edison Laboratory National Monument was established after 1.5 acres and 12 buildings were donated to the federal government by Thomas A. Edison, Inc. An additional 16 acres and Edison’s home were donated in 1959, and became the Edison Home National Historic Site. The two sites, which are approximately one mile apart, were redesignated as the Edison National Historic Site in 1962. Typically, a historic site is considered by the National Park Service to contain a single historical feature, while generally a national historic park extends beyond single properties or buildings. Based on this definition, proponents of H.R. 1096 believe the Edison Historic Site would be more appropriately designated as a national historic park. Supporters of H.R. 1096 anticipate that this redesignation will bring more attention, visitation, and revenue to the Edison Historic Site.

H.R. 1096 will redesignate the Edison National Historic Site as the Thomas Edison National Historic Park. The Park will encompass all lands currently contained in the Historic Site and property designated for inclusion by the Secretary of the Interior prior to passage of this Act.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 1096 was introduced on March 3, 2005, by Congressman Scott Garrett (R-NJ). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks. On June 9, 2005, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On October 19, 2005, the full Committee on Resources met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee was discharged from further consideration of the bill by unanimous consent. Congressman Stevan Pearce (R-NM) offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute which struck the findings in Section 2 of the legislation. The Pearce amendment was adopted by unanimous consent. The bill, as amended, 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.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8, and Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States grant 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 prepared 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, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in tax expenditures. According to the Congressional Budget Office, enactment of this bill would increase offsetting receipts and direct spending, but "any net change in direct spending would be negligible."

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to establish the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey as the successor to the Edison National Historic Site.

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:

H.R. 1096—Act Commemorating the LITE, or Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison

H.R. 1096 would redesignate the Edison National Historic site in New Jersey as the Thomas Edison National Historical Park. Based on information provided by the National Park Service (NPS), CBO estimates that implementing this bill would have no significant effect on the federal budget. Under the bill, the unit's boundaries, the agency's authority to acquire land and execute cooperative agreements with local entities, and annual operating costs would be similar or identical to those under existing law. We expect that one-time costs to revise NPS brochures, maps, and signs would be minimal because most such revisions would take place in conjunction with scheduled reprinting and other routine maintenance. Finally, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1096 would not affect revenues or direct spending.

H.R. 1096 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. 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 MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

ACT OF SEPTEMBER 5, 1962

(Public Law 87-628)

AN ACT to change the names of the Edison Home National Historic Site and the Edison Laboratory National Monument, to authorize the acceptance of donations, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, [That the Edison Home National Historic Site and the Edison Laboratory National Monument, together with adjacent parcels aggregating approximately seventy-one one-hundredths of an acre which have been donated to the United States for addition to the monument, are designated the Edison National Historic Site.

[SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior may accept the donation of such lands and interests in lands, for addition to the site, as he

determines will further the preservation of the Edison National Historic Site and its enjoyment by the public.

【SEC. 3. The Edison National Historic Site shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Act entitled “An Act to establish a National Park Service and for other purposes,” approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1, 2, 3), as amended and supplemented.】

