

THOMAS JEFFERSON CENSUS BUREAU HEADQUARTERS
BUILDING

JUNE 3, 2008.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. OBERSTAR, from the Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 5599]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 5599) to designate the Federal building located at 4600 Silver Hill Road in Suitland, Maryland, as the “Thomas Jefferson Census Bureau Headquarters Building”, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

H.R. 5599 designates the Federal building located at 4600 Silver Hill Road in Suitland, Maryland, as the “Thomas Jefferson Census Bureau Headquarters Building”.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The United States census takes place every ten years and is an important tool used by the Federal Government to allocate resources across the United States. Article 1, section 2 of the U.S. Constitution requires the enumeration of citizens. It also requires that, after the initial census, the census takes place every ten years thereafter.

Today, the results of the census are used to determine the size of Congressional districts, the allocation of seats allotted to each state in the U.S. House of Representatives, as a factor in the allocation of federal resources, and as a research tool to track economic and population trends in the United States. In 1790, Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson supervised the very first U.S. census. He was responsible for overseeing the collection of data and certifying

the local census results that were collected by judicial-district marshals on horseback. Although Thomas Jefferson is perhaps best remembered as the third president of the United States and as the author of the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson is also considered by some to be the first director of the U.S. Census. Although the practice of performing a census has been in practice for thousands of years, the U.S. census is considered to be the first modern periodic census. Several European countries adopted similar census requirements in the early 19th century.

The U.S. Census Bureau continued to operate as a temporary agency until 1902. In 1902, after the 1900 census, the U.S. Census Bureau was made a permanent agency. Today the U.S. Census Bureau employs thousands of federal workers and is currently preparing for the next census in 2010. In the 2000 census, the Government Accountability Office estimated that the U.S. Census Bureau would need 860,000 workers at its peak field operations to meet its goal of completing a census of the United States population. As the census has grown more complex in its almost 220-year history, the need for a permanent headquarters has consistently been a challenge. At various times, the U.S. Census Bureau has been headquartered in New York, New York, Washington, DC, and Suitland, Maryland.

Since 1941, the U.S. Census has been headquartered in Suitland, Maryland. In 2007, the General Services Administration completed construction of a state-of-the-art U.S. Census Bureau headquarters building. Given the role played by Thomas Jefferson in overseeing the first U.S. census and his contribution to the history of the United States, it is fitting and proper to designate the Federal building located at 4600 Silver Hill Road in Suitland, Maryland, as the "Thomas Jefferson Census Bureau Headquarters Building".

SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Findings

Section 1 contains Congressional findings on the United States Census and the role of Thomas Jefferson in the United States Census.

Section 2. Designation

Section 2 designates the Federal building located at 4600 Silver Hill Road in Suitland, Maryland, as the "Thomas Jefferson Census Bureau Headquarters Building".

Section 3. References

Section 3 indicates that any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 2 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Thomas Jefferson Census Bureau Headquarters Building".

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On March 12, 2008, Representative Carolyn Maloney introduced H.R. 5599.

On May 15, 2008, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session and ordered H.R. 5599 reported favorably to the House by voice vote with a quorum present.

RECORD VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires each committee report to include the total number of votes cast for and against on each record vote on a motion to report and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, and the names of those members voting for and against. There were no recorded votes taken in connection with ordering H.R. 5599 reported. A motion to order H.R. 5599 reported favorably to the House was agreed to by voice vote with a quorum present.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in this report.

COST OF LEGISLATION

Clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply where a cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 has been timely submitted prior to the filing of the report and is included in the report. Such a cost estimate is included in this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and clause 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee references the report of the Congressional Budget Office included in the report.

2. With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the performance goals and objective of this legislation are to designate the Federal building located at 4600 Silver Hill Road in Suitland, Maryland, as the "Thomas Jefferson Census Bureau Headquarters Building".

3. With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 5599 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, May 16, 2008.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
*Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed H.R. 5599, a bill to designate the federal building located at 4600 Silver Hill Road in Suitland, Maryland, as the "Thomas Jefferson Census Bureau Headquarters Building," as ordered re-

ported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on May 15, 2008.

CBO estimates that enactment of this legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget and would not affect direct spending or revenues. 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, or tribal governments. If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. SUNSHINE
(For Peter R. Orszag, Director).

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XXI

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, H.R. 5599 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, committee reports on a bill or joint resolution of a public character shall include a statement citing the specific powers granted to the Congress in the Constitution to enact the measure. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure finds that Congress has the authority to enact this measure pursuant to its powers granted under article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (Public Law 104-4).

PREEMPTION CLARIFICATION

Section 423 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 requires the report of any Committee on a bill or joint resolution to include a statement on the extent to which the bill or joint resolution is intended to preempt state, local, or tribal law. The Committee states that H.R. 5599 does not preempt any state, local, or tribal law.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act are created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act (Public Law 104-1).

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED
H.R. 5599 makes no changes in existing law.