

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2303

AN ACT

To direct the Librarian of Congress to prepare the history of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

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1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “History of the House
3 Awareness and Preservation Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. WRITTEN HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENT-**
5 **ATIVES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to available funding and
7 in accordance with the requirements of this Act, the Li-
8 brarian of Congress shall prepare, print, distribute, and
9 arrange for the funding of, a new and complete written
10 history of the House of Representatives, in consultation
11 with the Committee on House Administration. In pre-
12 paring this written history, the Librarian of Congress shall
13 consult, commission, or engage the services or participa-
14 tion of, eminent historians, Members, and former Mem-
15 bers of the House of Representatives.

16 (b) GUIDELINES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the
17 Librarian of Congress shall take into account the fol-
18 lowing:

19 (1) The history should be an illustrated, nar-
20 rative history of the House of Representatives, orga-
21 nized chronologically.

22 (2) The history’s intended audience is the gen-
23 eral reader, as well as Members of Congress and
24 their staffs.

25 (3) The history should include a discussion of
26 the First and Second Continental Congresses and

1 the Constitutional Convention, especially with regard
2 to their roles in creating the House of Representa-
3 tives.

4 (c) PRINTING.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Librarian of Congress
6 shall arrange for the printing of the history.

7 (2) PRINTING ARRANGEMENTS.—The printing
8 may be performed—

9 (A) by the Public Printer pursuant to the
10 provisions of chapter 5 of title 44, United
11 States Code;

12 (B) under a cooperative arrangement
13 among the Librarian of Congress, a private
14 funding source obtained pursuant to subsection
15 (e), and a publisher in the private sector; or

16 (C) under subparagraphs (A) and (B).

17 (3) INTERNET DISSEMINATION.—Any arrange-
18 ment under paragraph (2) shall include terms for
19 dissemination of the history over the Internet via fa-
20 cilities maintained by the United States Govern-
21 ment.

22 (4) MEMBER COPIES.—To the extent that the
23 history is printed by the Public Printer, copies of the
24 history provided to the Congress under subsection
25 (d) shall be charged to the Government Printing Of-

1 fice’s congressional allotment for printing and bind-
2 ing.

3 (d) DISTRIBUTION.—The Librarian of Congress shall
4 make the history available for sale to the public, and shall
5 make available, free of charge, 5 copies to each Member
6 of the House of Representatives and 250 copies to the
7 Senate.

8 (e) PRIVATE FUNDING.—The Librarian of Congress
9 shall solicit and accept funding for the preparation, publi-
10 cation, marketing, and public distribution of the history
11 from private individuals, organizations, or entities.

12 **SEC. 3. ORAL HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-**
13 **TIVES.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Librarian of Congress shall
15 accept for deposit, preserve, maintain, and make accessible
16 an oral history of the House of Representatives, as told
17 by its Members and former Members, compiled and up-
18 dated (on a voluntary or contract basis) by the United
19 States Association of Former Members of Congress or
20 other private organization. In carrying out this section,
21 the Librarian of Congress may enlist the voluntary aid or
22 assistance of such organization, or may contract with it
23 for such services as may be necessary.

24 (b) DEFINITION OF ORAL HISTORY.—In this section,
25 the term “oral history” means a story or history consisting

1 of personal recollection as recorded by any one or more
2 of the following means:

3 (1) Interviews.

4 (2) Transcripts.

5 (3) Audio recordings.

6 (4) Video recordings.

7 (5) Such other form or means as may be suit-
8 able for the recording and preservation of such in-
9 formation.

10 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

11 It is the sense of the Congress that—

12 (1) orientation programs for freshman Members
13 of the House of Representatives should contain a
14 seminar on the history of the House of Representa-
15 tives; and

16 (2) the Speaker of the House of Representa-
17 tives should conduct a series of forums on the topic
18 of the history of the House of Representatives.

Passed the House of Representatives October 25,
1999.

Attest:

Clerk.