H. R. 390

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 23, 2007

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

AN ACT

To require the establishment of a national database in the National Archives to preserve records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction and to provide grants to State and local entities to establish similar local databases.

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

This Act may be cited as the “Preservation of Records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post-Civil War Reconstruction Act”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL DATABASE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Archivist of the United States shall preserve relevant records and establish, as part of the National Archives, an electronically searchable national database consisting of historic records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction, including the Southern Claims Commission Records, Records of the Freedmen’s Bank, Slave Impressments Records, Slave Payroll Records, Slave Manifest, and others, contained within the agencies and departments of the Federal Government to assist African Americans and others in conducting genealogical and historical research.

(b) MAINTENANCE.—The database established under this section shall be maintained by the National Archives or an entity within the National Archives designated by the Archivist.

SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL DATABASES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Historical Publications and Records Commission of the National Archives shall provide grants to States, colleges and universities, and genealogical associations to preserve records and es-
establish electronically searchable databases consisting of
local records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil
War reconstruction.

(b) MAINTENANCE.—The databases established using
grants provided under this section shall be maintained by
appropriate agencies or institutions designated by the Na-
tional Historical Publications and Records Commission.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
There are authorized to be appropriated—
(1) $5,000,000 to implement section 2; and
(2) $5,000,000 to provide grants under section 3.

Passed the House of Representatives January 22,
2007.

Attest: KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.