

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3477

To amend title 44, United States Code, to authorize grants for Presidential Centers of Historical Excellence.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. WEBB) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 44, United States Code, to authorize grants for Presidential Centers of Historical Excellence.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Presidential Historical
5 Records Preservation Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 Section 2504 of title 44, United States Code, is
8 amended by—

9 (1) redesignating subsection (f) as subsection
10 (g);

1 (2) amending subsection (g)(1) (as so redesignated by paragraph (1))—

3 (A) in subparagraph (R), by striking
4 “and”;

5 (B) in subparagraph (S), by striking the
6 period and inserting “; and”; and

7 (C) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(T) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.”;
9 and

10 (3) inserting after subsection (e), the following:

11 “(f) GRANTS FOR PRESIDENTIAL CENTERS OF HISTORICAL EXCELLENCE.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Archivist, with the recommendation of the Commission, shall make grants,
14 on a competitive basis and in accordance with this
15 subsection, to eligible entities to promote the historical preservation of, and public access to, historical
16 records and documents relating to any President
17 who does not have a Presidential archival depository
18 currently managed and maintained by the Federal
19 Government pursuant to section 2112 (commonly
20 known as the ‘Presidential Libraries Act of 1955’).

21 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—For purposes of this
22 subsection, an eligible entity is—
23
24

1 “(A) an organization described under sec-
 2 tion 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of
 3 1986 and exempt from taxation under section
 4 501(a) of that Code; or

5 “(B) a State or local government of the
 6 United States.

7 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received by an
 8 eligible entity under paragraph (1) shall be used to
 9 promote the historical preservation of, and public ac-
 10 cess to, historical records or historical documents re-
 11 lating to any President covered under paragraph (1).

12 “(4) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.—
 13 Amounts received by an eligible entity under para-
 14 graph (1) may not be used for the maintenance, op-
 15 erating costs, or construction of any facility to house
 16 the historical records or historical documents relat-
 17 ing to any President covered under paragraph (1).

18 “(5) APPLICATION.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity
 20 seeking a grant under this subsection shall sub-
 21 mit to the Commission an application at such
 22 time, in such manner, and containing or accom-
 23 panied by such information as the Commission
 24 may require, including a description of the ac-

1 tivities for which a grant under this subsection
2 is sought.

3 “(B) APPROVAL OF APPLICATION.—The
4 Commission shall not consider or recommend a
5 grant application submitted under subpara-
6 graph (A) unless an eligible entity establishes
7 that such entity—

8 “(i) possesses, with respect to any
9 President covered under paragraph (1),
10 historical works and collections of histor-
11 ical sources that the Commission considers
12 appropriate for preserving, publishing, or
13 otherwise recording at the public expense;

14 “(ii) has appropriate facilities and
15 space for preservation of, and public access
16 to, the historical works and collections of
17 historical sources;

18 “(iii) shall ensure preservation of, and
19 public access to, such historical works and
20 collections of historical sources at no
21 charge to the public;

22 “(iv) has educational programs that
23 make the use of such documents part of
24 the mission of such entity;

1 “(v) has raised funds from non-Fed-
2 eral sources in support of the efforts of the
3 entity to promote the historical preserva-
4 tion of, and public access to, such histor-
5 ical works and collections of historical
6 sources in an amount equal to the amount
7 of the grant the entity seeks under this
8 subsection;

9 “(vi) shall coordinate with any rel-
10 evant Federal program or activity, includ-
11 ing programs and activities relating to
12 Presidential archival depositories;

13 “(vii) shall coordinate with any rel-
14 evant non-Federal program or activity, in-
15 cluding programs and activities conducted
16 by State and local governments and private
17 educational historical entities; and

18 “(viii) has a workable plan for pre-
19 serving and providing public access to such
20 historical works and collections of histor-
21 ical sources.”.

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