

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2256

To authorize the Archivist of the United States to make grants to States for the preservation and dissemination of historical records.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2009

Mr. HINCHEY (for himself, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. BARROW, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. CROWLEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To authorize the Archivist of the United States to make grants to States for the preservation and dissemination of historical records.

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 “Preserving the Amer-
5 ican Historical Record Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Much of the American historical record,
2 such as evidence of births, education, marriage, di-
3 vorce, property owned, obligations satisfied, and
4 criminal conduct, is held at the State and local level
5 by organizations that preserve the records that pro-
6 tect the rights of the Nation.

7 (2) The United States has recognized the im-
8 portance of history by its support of national institu-
9 tions such as the National Archives, the Library of
10 Congress, and the Smithsonian Institution. Yet, this
11 support is not adequate to reach the rest of the Na-
12 tion’s archives being held in State and local histor-
13 ical societies, archives, and library history collec-
14 tions.

15 (3) More resources need to be directed to State
16 and local organizations to ensure essential care of
17 documents and archival records in their many forms
18 so that they can be readily used by the people of this
19 Nation.

20 (4) History connects people to community—
21 whether the community is a family, a neighborhood,
22 a city, a State, or a Nation. Connections to the past
23 are essential to sustaining democracy, educating stu-
24 dents, creating a sense of place in family and com-
25 munity, supporting information needs in business

1 and legal affairs, and making reasoned decisions
2 about the Nation's future direction.

3 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

4 The purposes of this Act are—

5 (1) to protect historical records from harm, to
6 prolong their life, and to preserve them for public
7 use, through the use of electronic records initiatives
8 and plans for disaster preparedness, recovery, and
9 other preservation activities;

10 (2) to use historical records in new and creative
11 ways to convey the importance of State, territorial,
12 and community history, including the development of
13 teaching materials for elementary, secondary, and
14 postsecondary teachers, active participation in Na-
15 tional History Day, and support for lifelong learning
16 opportunities;

17 (3) to provide education and training to archi-
18 vists and others who care for historical records, en-
19 suring that they have the necessary knowledge and
20 skills to fulfill their important responsibilities; and

21 (4) to create a wide variety of access tools, in-
22 cluding archival finding aids, documentary editions,
23 indexes, and images of key records maintained on
24 Internet websites of State and local organizations.

1 **SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.**

2 The Archivist shall make grants under this Act to
3 States to carry out programs consistent with the purposes
4 of this Act.

5 **SEC. 5. USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.**

6 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—The Archivist may not award
7 grants to any State under this Act unless—

8 (1) the State agrees to use grant amounts only
9 to carry out programs consistent with the purposes
10 of this Act;

11 (2) the State certifies the availability of State
12 or private funds, or an in-kind equivalent, equal to
13 half the amount of the grant to be awarded to the
14 State; and

15 (3) the State ensures that grant amounts are
16 used to supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal
17 funds that would otherwise be available for those
18 purposes.

19 (b) ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.—The Archivist may
20 require additional terms and conditions in connection with
21 the use of grant amounts provided under this Act as the
22 Archivist considers appropriate.

23 **SEC. 6. STATE ALLOCATIONS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Archivist shall award grant
25 amounts under this Act in accordance with this section.

1 (b) CALCULATION OF ALLOCATIONS.—The Archivist
2 shall allocate funds made available to carry out this Act
3 to the States as follows:

4 (1) 10 percent of the total available funds di-
5 vided equally among the States.

6 (2) 82 percent of such funds allotted to the
7 States on the basis of their relative total population,
8 adjusted every decade based on the United States
9 Census.

10 (3) 8 percent of such funds allotted to the
11 States by geographic size.

12 (c) STATE GRANTS.—From funds allocated under
13 subsection (b), the Archivist shall make grants to the
14 State archival administrative agency of each State.

15 (d) REALLOCATION.—The State archival administra-
16 tive agency shall return any funds received under sub-
17 section (c) that the State archival administrative agency
18 does not obligate within one year of receiving a grant, and
19 the Archivist shall reallocate such funds to the remaining
20 States in accordance with subsection (b).

21 (e) CONSULTATION WITH STATE ARCHIVISTS AND
22 SECRETARIES OF STATE.—In carrying out this section,
23 the Archivist shall consult with State archivists, State sec-
24 retaries of state, or other appropriate State and local offi-

1 cials who have administrative responsibilities for archival
2 functions.

3 **SEC. 7. APPLICATION.**

4 The Archivist may award grant amounts under this
5 Act only to a State that has submitted an application to
6 the Archivist at such time, in such manner, and containing
7 such information as the Archivist may require.

8 **SEC. 8. REVIEW AND SANCTIONS.**

9 (a) ANNUAL REPORT BY STATE.—Each State receiv-
10 ing funds under this Act during a calendar year shall pro-
11 vide to the Archivist, no later than January 31 of the fol-
12 lowing year, a report on activities supported by such funds
13 during the previous calendar year.

14 (b) ANNUAL REVIEW.—The Archivist shall review an-
15 nually the report provided by each State under subsection
16 (a) to determine the extent to which the State has com-
17 plied with the provisions of this Act.

18 (c) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The Archivist may
19 impose sanctions on any State for any failure to comply
20 substantially with the provisions of this Act. The Archivist
21 shall establish the sanctions to be imposed for a failure
22 to comply substantially with the provisions of this Act.

23 **SEC. 9. ANNUAL REPORT.**

24 Not later than April 1 of each year, the Archivist
25 shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and

1 Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee
2 on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of
3 Representatives a report describing the activities carried
4 out under this Act and containing any related information
5 that the Archivist considers appropriate.

6 **SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) STATE.—The term “State” means each
9 State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the
10 Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the
11 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

12 (2) ARCHIVIST.—The term “Archivist” means
13 the Archivist of the United States appointed under
14 section 2103 of title 44, United States Code.

15 (3) HISTORICAL RECORD.—The term “histori-
16 cal record” means unpublished materials created or
17 received by a person, family, or organization, public
18 or private, in the conduct of their affairs that are
19 preserved because of the enduring value contained in
20 the information they contain or as evidence of the
21 functions and responsibilities of their creator.

22 (4) STATE ARCHIVIST.—The term “State Archi-
23 vist” means the individual mandated by law within
24 each State with responsibility for managing the ar-
25 chival records of State government.

1 (5) STATE ARCHIVAL ADMINISTRATIVE AGEN-
2 CY.—The term “State archival administrative agen-
3 cy” means the agency mandated by law within each
4 State with the responsibility for managing the archi-
5 val records of State government.

6 **SEC. 11. REGULATIONS.**

7 The Archivist shall prescribe any regulations nec-
8 essary to carry out this Act.

9 **SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Archi-
11 vist \$50,000,000 each fiscal year for five fiscal years, be-
12 ginning with the first fiscal year beginning after the date
13 of the enactment of this Act, to make grants under this
14 Act.

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