

AMENDING THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES CENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT TO EXTEND THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THE COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

JULY 16, 2018.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GOWDY, from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 4446]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4446) to amend the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission Act to extend the expiration date of the Commission, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SEC. 1. AMENDMENT.

The Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission Act (Public Law 114–224) is amended—

(1) in section 7(b), by striking “January 31, 2018” and inserting “January 31, 2019”; and

(2) in section 10, by striking “September 30, 2018” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

H.R. 4446 extends the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission to September 30, 2019, and delays the deadline for the final report of the Commission to January 31, 2019.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission Act was signed into law on September 29, 2016.¹ The Commission’s charge is to plan and carry out events commemorating the 100th anniversary of the transfer of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the United States. The Centennial occurred on March 31, 2017. However, the appointment of two members of the Commission was delayed by more than one year, and hurricane recovery efforts made Centennial celebrations impossible in the latter part of 2017. As a result, the Commission has not convened, and no events have been planned or carried out to date. Because the Commission has not held any meetings or events, there is no final report available detailing the Commission’s activities. H.R. 4446 delays the expiration of the Commission and the deadline for submitting the final report by one year to give the Commission more time to plan events celebrating this important event in American history.

STATEMENT OF OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII and clause (2)(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee’s oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the previous section.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In accordance with clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee’s performance goal or objective for this bill is to extend the duration of the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission by one year.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

On November 16, 2017, Delegate Stacey Plaskett (D–VI) introduced H.R. 4446, a bill to amend the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission Act to extend the expiration date of the Commission, and for other purposes. H.R. 4446 was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The Committee considered H.R. 4446 at a business meeting on March 15,

¹ Pub. L. No. 114–224 (2016).

2018 and ordered the bill favorably reported, as amended, by voice vote.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On March 15, 2018, the Committee met in open session and, with a quorum being present, ordered the bill favorably reported, as amended, by voice vote.

ROLL CALL VOTES

There were no roll call votes requested or conducted during Committee consideration of H.R. 4446.

EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS

During Committee consideration of the bill, Representative Glenn Grothman (R-WI), offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute to remove a provision allowing the Delegate from the Virgin Islands to appoint a member of the Commission, if the Governor of the Virgin Islands fails to do so by the required deadline. The amendment also removes a provision repealing the prohibition on authorization or obligation of federal funds to carry out the Act. The Grothman amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

APPLICATION OF LAW TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 102(b)(3) of Public Law 104–1 requires a description of the application of this bill to the legislative branch where the bill relates to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services and accommodations. This bill extends the duration of the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission by one year. As such, this bill does not relate to employment or access to public services and accommodations.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

In accordance with clause 2(c)(5) of rule XIII no provision of this bill establishes or reauthorizes a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, a program that was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139, or a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

DISCLOSURE OF DIRECTED RULE MAKINGS

This bill does not direct the completion of any specific rule makings within the meaning of section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT

The Committee finds that the legislation does not establish or authorize the establishment of an advisory committee within the definition of Section 5(b) of the appendix to title 5, United States Code.

UNFUNDED MANDATES STATEMENT

Pursuant to section 423 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act (Pub. L. 113–67) the Committee has included a letter received from the Congressional Budget Office below.

EARMARK IDENTIFICATION

This bill does not include any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the House of Representatives.

COMMITTEE ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(2)(B) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee includes below a cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives, the cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office and submitted pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2018.

Hon. TREY GOWDY,
*Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 4446, a bill to amend the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission Act to extend the expiration date of the Commission, and for other purposes.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 4446—A bill to amend the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission Act to extend the expiration date of the Commission, and for other purposes

H.R. 4446 would extend the authority for the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission to act for one additional year. The Commission whose members have been selected but have not met, is prohibited from using appropriated funds.

Enacting H.R. 4446 would affect direct spending because it would allow the commission to continue to accept and spend monetary gifts for an additional year. Therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures

apply. However, CBO estimates that the net effect on direct spending would be negligible. Enacting H.R. 4446 would not affect revenues.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4446 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 4446 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

On February 20, 2018, CBO transmitted a revised cost estimate for H.R. 4446, an amendment in the Nature of a Substitute posted on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's website on February 6, 2018. The two pieces of legislation are similar and CBO's estimates of their costs are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Amendment

Section 1 amends the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission Act (Public Law 114–224) to extend the submission deadline for the final report of the Commission to January 31, 2019 and delay the termination date of the Commission to September 30, 2019.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in *italics*, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES CENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

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SEC. 7. REPORTS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than January 31 of each year, and annually thereafter until the final report is submitted pursuant to subsection (b), the Commission shall submit to the President and the Congress a report on—

(1) the activities of the Commission; and

(2) the revenue and expenditures of the Commission, including a list of each gift, bequest, or devise to the Commission with a value of more than \$250, including the identity of the donor of each gift, bequest, or devise.

(b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than **January 31, 2018** *January 31, 2019*, the Commission shall submit a final report to the President and the Congress containing—

(1) a summary of the activities of the Commission; and

(2) a final accounting of funds received and expended by the Commission.

* * * * *

SEC. 10. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate on **【September 30, 2018】** *September 30, 2019*, or may terminate at an earlier date determined by the Commission after the final report is submitted pursuant to section 7(b).

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