Ms. Murkowski, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 4446]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which 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, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 4446 is to amend the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission Act to extend the expiration date of the Commission.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

The transfer of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the United States in 1917 was a significant historic and culture event. Public Law 114–224 established a bipartisan Federal commission, known as the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission (Commission), to develop, plan, and execute formal commemorative activities to honor the rich heritage of the U.S. Virgin Islands and celebrate the 100th anniversary of its status as a U.S. territory.

While the Commission was established on September 29, 2016, with the enactment of Public Law 114–224, the appointment of two of the Commission’s members was delayed by over one year. Additionally, the impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017 made
any Commission activities extremely difficult. The Commission did not hold its first official meeting until June 13, 2018. Because there has only been one meeting, at which the Executive Director was selected, the Commission has not submitted a report to the President and Congress on its activities. H.R. 4446 provides the Commission with an additional year to fulfill its responsibilities and further extends the timeline for submission of its final report.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

H.R. 4446 was introduced by Representative Plaskett (D–VI) in the House of Representatives on November 16, 2017, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On March 15, 2018, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered H.R. 4446 favorably reported, as amended, by voice vote. On July 16, 2018, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4446 by voice vote.

On July 17, 2018, H.R. 4446 was received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources met in open business session on October 2, 2018, and ordered H.R. 4446 favorably reported.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on October 2, 2018, by a majority voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass H.R. 4446.

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 deadline for the submission of the Commission’s final report by one-year to January 31, 2019. This section also extends the Commission’s termination date by one-year to September 30, 2019.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The following estimate of the costs of this measure has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office: H.R. 4446 would extend the authority for the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission, to act for one additional year (through September 30, 2019). The Commission, whose members have been selected but have not met, is prohibited from using appropriated funds.

Enacting the legislation 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 2029.

H.R. 4446 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.
On March 20, 2018, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 4446 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on March 15, 2018. On February 20, 2018, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 4446, an amendment in the Nature of a Substitute as posted on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform’s website on February 6, 2018. The three pieces of legislation are identical and CBO’s estimates of their budgetary effects are the same.

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

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 4446. The Act is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy. Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of H.R. 4446, as ordered reported.

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

H.R. 4446, as ordered reported, does not contain any congressionally directed spending items, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee did not request Executive Communications for H.R. 4446.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the Act, H.R. 4446, as ordered reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES CENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

Public Law 114–224

* * * * * * * * * *

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).

* * * * * * *