

SAVE THE LIBERTY THEATRE ACT OF 2021

MARCH 9, 2022.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GRIJALVA, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 3197]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 3197) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Eunice, Louisiana, certain Federal land in Louisiana, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 3197 is to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Eunice, Louisiana, certain federal land in Louisiana.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

As a former vaudeville house and cinema dating to 1924, the Liberty Theatre has been a community mainstay in Eunice, Louisiana, for nearly 100 years.¹ The theater, which is directly adjacent to the Jean LaFitte National Historical Park's Prairie Acadian Cultural Center, is owned by the City of Eunice. However, in 1989, the National Park Service (NPS) financed an annex to the theater to install an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant access ramp and restroom and an HVAC system for the cultural center and theater.

H.R. 3197 would require the Department of the Interior to convey to the city of Eunice, Louisiana, this small NPS-owned parcel. NPS plans to install its own HVAC system for the cultural center,

¹Also see generally S. REP. NO. 117-86, at 1-2 (2022), <https://www.congress.gov/117/crpt/srpt86/CRPT-117srpt86.pdf>—of which the above text is largely excerpts.

and the City of Eunice plans to install a new system for the historic Liberty Theatre. The City seeks the conveyance of the property to consolidate ownership and facilitate financing for ongoing restoration work.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 3197 was introduced on May 13, 2021, by Representative Mike Johnson (R-LA). The bill was referred solely to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. On October 14, 2021, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On November 17, 2021, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee was discharged by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered, and the bill was adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held on October 14, 2021.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) and (3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and sections 308(a) and 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following estimate for the bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, February 25, 2022.

Hon. RAÚL GRIJALVA,
*Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 3197, the Save the Liberty Theatre Act of 2021.

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

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 3197, Save the Liberty Theatre Act of 2021			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on November 17, 2021			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2032?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

H.R. 3197 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey all right, title, and interest of the federal government in specified areas of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve to the city of Eunice, Louisiana. That area includes an annex owned by the National Park Service (NPS) that is attached to the Liberty Theatre, which is owned by the city. The NPS would not receive payment from the city for the conveyed land.

Using information from the NPS, CBO estimates that the administrative costs associated with conveying the land to the city and updating maps would not be significant. In addition, CBO expects that implementing the bill would reduce NPS maintenance costs for those areas by an insignificant amount. On net, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3197 would have an insignificant effect on spending subject to appropriation.

The property that would be conveyed does not generate income for the federal government; therefore, enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Madeleine Fox. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goals and objectives of this bill are to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Eunice, Louisiana, certain federal land in Louisiana.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

According to CBO, this bill contains no unfunded mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes to existing law.

SUPPLEMENTAL, MINORITY, ADDITIONAL, OR DISSENTING VIEWS

None.