

HOLCOMBE RUCKER PARK NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE
SITE ACT

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 6852]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6852) to designate Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, as a National Commemorative Site, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Holcombe Rucker Park National Commemorative Site Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE SITE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, is hereby designated as the “Holcombe Rucker Park National Commemorative Site” (referred to in this section as the “Commemorative Site”).

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements with appropriate public or private entities, including the Mayor of New York City or the Mayor’s designee, for interpretive and educational purposes related to the Commemorative Site, including installing a plaque, interpretive exhibit, or other marker, as appropriate, at the Commemorative Site, with the written consent of the owner of the Commemorative Site, to memorialize the achievements of Holcombe Rucker and to provide recognition of the historic role of Holcombe Rucker Park in the development of the game of basketball and of many of its most talented players.

(2) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—The Commemorative Site shall not be a unit of the National Park System.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this Act—

(A) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to interfere with the rights of any person with respect to private property or any local zoning ordinance or land use plan of the State of New York or any political subdivision thereof, including prohibiting any actions that may otherwise be taken by a prop-

erty owner (including any owner of the Commemorative Site) with respect to the property of the owner;

(B) affects the administration of the Commemorative Site by New York City or the State of New York; or

(C) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land or interests in land through condemnation or otherwise.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 6852 is to designate Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, as a National Commemorative Site, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Located in the heart of New York City’s (NYC) Harlem neighborhood, the Greg Marius Court at Holcombe Rucker Park (Rucker Park) is a historically significant basketball destination. Holcombe Rucker, the park’s namesake, was credited with helping over 700 children receive college scholarships for athletics. Over the subsequent decades, Rucker Park and its associated basketball tournaments have continued to grow in importance—both as a cultural resource for Harlem and as an attraction for basketball enthusiasts everywhere. The park has been described as a “Mecca of Basketball,” and many legendary NBA players, such as Wilt Chamberlin, Kobe Bryant, and LeBron James, have traveled to play there.

In recognition of this unique history, H.R. 6852 would designate Rucker Park as a National Commemorative Site. This designation would not make Rucker Park a unit of the National Park System, add to the federal estate, infringe on private property rights, or affect the administration of the park by NYC and the State of New York. Following consultation with the National Park Service, Rep. Neguse offered an amendment with technical changes that was adopted by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 6852 was introduced on December 19, 2023, by Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D–NY). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands. On March 7, 2024, the Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on the bill. On May 7, 2024, the Committee on Natural Resources met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Federal Lands was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6852 by unanimous consent. Representative Joe Neguse (D–CO) offered an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute designated Neguse_234. The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to by unanimous consent. The bill, as amended, was 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 Federal Lands held on March 7, 2024.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 names the bill the “Holcombe Rucker Park National Commemorative Site Act.”

Section 2. National Commemorative Site

Section 2 designates Holcombe Rucker Park as a National Commemorative Site and allows the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with appropriate public or private entities for interpretive and education purposes related to the Site. Section 2 clarifies the designation shall not make the Site a unit of the National Park System nor will it affect the administration of the Site by the City or State of New York. Section 2 prohibits the Secretary of the Interior from acquiring land associated with the site or interfering with private property rights.

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.* Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of House rule XIII and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of House rule XIII and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office a budgetary analysis and a cost estimate of this bill.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to designate Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, as a National Commemorative Site, and for other purposes.

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

An estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chair of the Committee shall cause such estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record upon its receipt by the Committee, if such estimate is not publicly available on the Congressional Budget Office website.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

Directed Rule Making. This bill does not contain any directed rule makings.

Duplication of Existing Programs. This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111-139 or identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95-220, as amended by Public Law 98-169) as relating to other programs.

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

As ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources, H.R. 6852 would make no changes in existing law.