

TO RENAME THE ANAHUAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LOCATED IN
THE STATE OF TEXAS AS THE “JOCELYN NUNGARAY NATIONAL WILD-
LIFE REFUGE”

JULY 10, 2025.—Referred to the House Calendar 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. 3179]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 3179) to rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of Texas as the “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 3179 is to rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of Texas as the “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Jocelyn Nungaray was a 12-year-old girl from Houston, Texas, whose life was tragically cut short on June 16, 2024, when she was raped and murdered by two Venezuelan nationals who entered the U.S. illegally and are allegedly members of the notorious Tren de Aragua gang.¹ Jocelyn’s death quickly garnered national attention and renewed calls for more stringent immigration policies.²

To permanently commemorate Ms. Nungaray, who was known for her special affinity for animals, President Trump signed Executive Order (E.O.) 14229 on March 4, 2025. This order directed the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to change the name of the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge to the “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge.”³

¹“Department of the Interior Renames Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge in Honor of Jocelyn Nungaray,” March 10, 2025. <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order/so-3425-re-naming-anahuac-national-wildlife-refuge-honor-jocelyn>.

²*Id.*

³Executive Order 14229, The White House, March 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/honoring-jocelyn-nungaray/>.

Alexis Nungaray, Jocelyn's mother, was a special guest of the President during his March 4, 2025, address to Congress. During his speech, the President said:

*One thing I have learned about Jocelyn is that she loved animals so much. She loved nature. Across Galveston Bay from where Jocelyn lived in Houston, you will find a magnificent national wildlife refuge. A pristine, peaceful, 34,000-acre sanctuary for all of God's creatures on the edge of the Gulf of America.*⁴

On March 7, 2025, Secretary Doug Burgum signed a Secretary's Order to implement President Trump's E.O.⁵ H.R. 3179, introduced by Representative Brian Babin on May 5, 2025, would codify the E.O. to ensure that this renaming cannot be overturned by a future administration without Congressional action.

Established in 1963 along the Texas coast of the Gulf of America, the refuge protects coastal marsh and prairie, providing habitat for migratory and resident waterfowl, shorebirds, and waterbirds.⁶ In addition to serving as a sanctuary, it offers the public numerous opportunities for fishing, waterfowl hunting, and wildlife viewing, hosting more than 800,000 visitors a year.⁷

The refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.⁸

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 3179 was introduced on May 5, 2025, by Representative Brian Babin (R-TX). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries. On May 20, 2025, the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing on the bill. On June 25, 2025, the Committee on Natural Resources met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3179 by unanimous consent. The bill 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 Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held on May 20, 2025.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Findings

Congress finds the following:

- On June 17, 2024, 12-year-old Jocelyn Nungaray was brutally murdered in Houston, Texas.

⁴“Remarks By President Trump in Joint Address to Congress,” March 4, 2025. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/remarks/2025/03/remarks-by-president-trump-in-joint-address-to-congress/>.

⁵ Secretary Order 3425, U.S. Department of the Interior, March 2025, <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order/so-3425-renaming-anahuac-national-wildlife-refuge-honor-jocelyn>.

⁶“Jocelyn Nungaray national Wildlife Refuge,” U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/jocelyn-nungaray/about-us>.

⁷*Id.*

⁸*Id.*

- Two illegal aliens who were allegedly members of the Tren de Aragua gang have been charged with her murder.
- On March 5, 2025, President Donald J. Trump signed E.O. 14229 renaming the area known as the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge as the “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”.
- Ms. Nungaray loved animals and, given the close proximity of her hometown of Houston, it is fitting that the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge be renamed in her honor.

Section 2. Renaming of Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge

H.R. 3179 codifies the renaming of the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge as the Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge. This ensures any reference in law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States referring to the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge is changed to the Joceyln Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge.

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 rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of Texas as the “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”.

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. 3179 would make no changes in existing law.

