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SENATE  

REPORT  
No. 1148

AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES AT MUSKOGEE, OKLA.

JUNE 23 (calendar day, JUNE 24), 1926.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HARRELD, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT
[To accompany H. R. 10540]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10540) authorizing an appropriation to revise, repair, index, and file various records in the office of the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee, Okla., having considered the same, report favorably thereon with a recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

The facts are fully set forth in House Report No. 1096, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session, which is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

[House Report No. 1096, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10540) authorizing an appropriation to revise, repair, index, and file various records in the office of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee, Okla., having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

“That there is authorized to be appropriated, out of funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of $10,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, for recopying, repairing, rebinding, indexing, and otherwise preserving valuable old records and papers in the office of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee, Oklahoma, the necessary work to be done and the expenditure therefor to be made under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.”

This bill provides for the preserving the old records of the office of the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma and has the approval of the Secretary of the Interior as evidenced by the attached letter which is made a part of this report.
APPROPRIATION FOR THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, May 1, 1926.

Hon. Scott Leavitt,
Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs,
House of Representatives.

My Dear Mr. Leavitt: Reference is made herein to H. R. 10540, entitled "A bill authorizing an appropriation to revise, repair, index, and file various records in the office of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee, Okla.," and to your request of March 23, 1926, for a report thereon.

From information furnished by the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes, it appears that certain old records and papers in his office are in a tattered, torn, and dilapidated condition, and in some cases almost illegible. The records and papers to which the superintendent refers include the records of his office relating to enrollment and allotment of members of the Five Civilized Tribes and also old tribal records of the Five Civilized Tribes. These records and papers are valuable as the foundation of title to all land within the area of the Five Civilized Tribes and are of great importance for the reason that they are the only records of the adjudication of rights between individual members of these tribes and fix and determine many matters such as marriage, divorce, tribal citizenship, land titles, and distribution of estates not only of Indians but of persons holding through or under them. The superintendent states that copies of the records are constantly required for use in determining the title to lands in eastern Oklahoma and especially for use in cases involving the question of heirship of deceased allottees and that from furnishing certified copies of such records a revenue is derived which amounts to several thousands of dollars annually.

It is estimated that an appropriation of $10,000 will be necessary for the purpose of providing for the expense of copying, translating, repairing, authenticating, indexing, and preserving these valuable old records and papers. There appears to be a real necessity for taking steps looking to the preservation of these records and papers and to putting them in serviceable condition so that they may be readily available to the office of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes and that the public may, without unnecessary delay, procure information from and copies of such papers as may be desired.

In view of the importance of these old records and papers in the office of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes and the necessity of providing for their preservation and for recopying, rebinding, repairing, and indexing of such records and papers, no objection is seen to providing an appropriation of not exceeding $10,000 for such purpose.

It is suggested that H. R. 10540 be amended and modified so as to read as follows:

"A BILL Authorizing an appropriation for recopying, rebinding, and repairing various records in the office of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee, Oklahoma, and for other purposes.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is authorized to be appropriated out of the funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of $10,000 or as much thereof as may be necessary for recopying, repairing, rebinding, indexing, and otherwise preserving valuable old records and papers in the office of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee, Oklahoma, the necessary work to be done and the expenditure therefor to be made under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior."

If H. R. 10540 be amended and modified as above suggested, its enactment as so amended and modified is recommended.

The Director of the Bureau of the Budget advises that this report is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Very truly yours,

E. C. Finney, Acting Secretary.