

Public Law 100-433  
100th Congress

An Act

Sept. 16, 1988  
[H.R. 1939]

To provide for continuing interpretation of the Constitution in appropriate units of the National Park System by the Secretary of the Interior, and to establish a National center for the United States Constitution within the Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

Constitution  
Heritage Act  
of 1988.  
Conservation.  
Historic  
preservation.  
16 USC 407aa  
note.  
16 USC 407aa.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Constitution Heritage Act of 1988".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that:

(1) 1987 was the bicentennial of the signing of the United States Constitution;

(2) commemoration of the Constitution's bicentennial included various events conducted by the Federal Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, and State and local bicentennial commissions;

(3) bicentennial activities included important educational and instructional programs to heighten public awareness of the Constitution and the democratic process;

(4) educational programs for the Constitution should continue after the bicentennial to document its profound impact on the political, economic and social development of this Nation, and in order to recognize those Americans instrumental in the history of the Constitution; and

(5) units of the National Park System preserve and interpret key historic sites that document the history of the origins, subsequent development, and effects of the United States Constitution on this Nation.

(b) PURPOSES.—It is therefore the policy of the Congress to provide each of the following:

(1) the necessary resources to develop a national resource center to undertake, on an ongoing basis, educational programs on the Constitution;

(2) exhibits of, and an archives for, programs on or related to the recent bicentennial of the United States Constitution; and

(3) interpretation of the United States Constitution at those units of the National Park System particularly relevant to its history.

Education.

16 USC 407bb.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT BY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—The Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall establish The National Constitution Center (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Center") within or in close proximity to the Independence National Historical Park. The Center shall disseminate information about the United States Constitution on a non-

Public  
information.

partisan basis in order to increase the awareness and understanding of the Constitution among the American people.

(b) **FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTER.**—The functions of the Center shall include—

(1) serving as a center of exhibits and related materials on the history and contemporary significance of the Constitution;

(2) directing a national program of public education on the Constitution; issuing traveling exhibits, commissioning radio and television programs, furnishing materials for the schools, and providing other education services; Education.

(3) functioning as an intellectual center, drawing both academics and practitioners to debate and refine constitutional issues and, at the same time, providing intellectual support for the Center's exhibits and public education program; and

(4) creating archives for programs on the bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

**SEC. 4. ACQUISITION OF SITE FOR AND OPERATION OF THE CENTER.** 16 USC 407cc.

(a) **PROVIDING A SITE.**—The Secretary through the General Services Administration, is authorized to provide, upon adequate reimbursement, a site, including necessary structures, for the Center by—

(1) using an existing structure or modifying an existing structure for use; or

(2) constructing a new structure to house the Center. The Secretary may acquire such land as is necessary to provide a site for the Center.

(b) **PROVISION OF FUNDS TO THE CENTER.**—The Secretary is authorized to make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements, contracts or leases with the National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which shall operate the Center as provided in this Act in order to carry out the purposes of this Act. Funds authorized to be appropriated under this Act may be made available to the National Constitution Center only to the extent that they are matched by such entity with funds from nonfederal sources. Grants.  
Contracts.

**SEC. 5. DIRECTIVES TO SECRETARY.** 16 USC 407dd.

(a) **INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND OTHER UNITS.**—The Secretary shall interpret the origins, subsequent development, and effects of the United States Constitution on this country at Independence National Historical Park and at such other units of the National Park System as are closely associated with the Constitution. The Secretary shall select not less than 12 units of the National Park System for such interpretation, including Independence National Historical Park.

(b) **MEMORIAL.**—The Secretary is authorized to establish and maintain at Independence National Historical Park an appropriate memorial to the United States Constitution as a key document in our Nation's history.

(c) **PUBLIC MATERIALS.**—In coordination with the National Constitution Center, the Secretary shall develop and make available to the public interpretive and educational materials related to sites within the National Park System as referred to in subsection (a).

(d) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the owners or administrators of historic sites closely associated with the Constitution, pursuant to

which the Secretary may provide technical assistance in the preservation and interpretation of such sites.

Contracts.

(e) RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.—The Secretary shall contract with the National Constitution Center and other qualified institutions of higher learning for research and other activities including the distribution of interpretive and educational materials as appropriate in order to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(f) Nothing in this section may be construed to alter or waive the requirement that the Secretary maintain the historic integrity of units of the National Park System, including compliance with section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act (90 Stat. 1320) as amended.

16 USC 407ee.

SEC. 6. FUNDING.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Approved September 16, 1988.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 1939:**

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 100-107 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).  
SENATE REPORTS: No. 100-450 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 133 (1987): May 27, considered and passed House.

Vol. 134 (1988): Aug. 9, considered and passed Senate, amended.  
Sept. 8, House concurred in Senate amendments.