Public Law 97-329
97th Congress

An Act

To designate the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in Washington, District of Columbia, as a national historic site, and for other purposes.

Oct. 15, 1982
[S. 2436]

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

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House, D.C.
National historic site, designation.
16 USC 461 note.

CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1. (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House was the residence in Washington, District of Columbia, of Mary McLeod Bethune, renowned educator, national political leader, and founder of the National Council of Negro Women;

(2) it was at this location that Mary McLeod Bethune directed activities that brought her national and international recognition;

(3) this site was significant as a center for the development of strategies and programs which advanced the interests of black women and the black community;

(4) it was at this location that Mary McLeod Bethune as the president of the National Council of Negro Women received heads of state, government officials, and leaders from across the world;

(5) the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House was the first national headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women, and is the site of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum and the National Archives for Black Women's History;

(6) the archives, which houses the largest extant manuscript collection of materials pertaining to black women and their organizations, contains extensive correspondence, photographs, and memorabilia relating to Mary McLeod Bethune; and

(7) the museum and archives actively collect artifacts, clothing, artwork, and other materials which document the history of black women and the black community.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act—

(1) to assure the preservation, maintenance, and interpretation of this house and site because of the historic meaning and prominence of the life and achievements of Mary McLeod Bethune, an outstanding leader in the areas of housing, employment, civil rights, and women's rights; and

(2) to assure the continuation of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum and the National Archives for Black

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Women's History at this site, the preservation of which is necessary for the continued interpretation of the history of black women in America.

ESTABLISHMENT OF HISTORIC SITE

SEC. 2. In order to further the purpose of this Act and the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461-7), the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House at 1318 Vermont Avenue Northwest, in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, is hereby designated as a national historic site (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "historic site").

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

SEC. 3. In furtherance of the purposes of this Act and the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461-7), the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to enter into cooperative agreements with the National Council of Negro Women. Such agreements may include provisions by which the Secretary will provide technical assistance to mark, restore, interpret, operate, and maintain the historic site and may also include provisions by which the Secretary will provide financial assistance to mark, interpret, and restore the historic site (including the making of preservation-related capital improvements and repairs but not including other routine operations). Such agreement may also contain provisions that—

(1) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, shall have right of access at all reasonable times to all public portions of the property covered by such agreement for the purpose of conducting visitors through such properties and interpreting them to the public; and

(2) no changes or alterations shall be made in such properties except by mutual agreement between the Secretary and the other parties to such agreements.

No limitation or control of any kind over the use of such properties customarily used for the purposes of the National Council of Negro Women shall be imposed by any such agreement.

ANNUAL REPORT

SEC. 4. The National Council of Negro Women shall, as a condition of the receipt of any assistance under this Act, provide to the Secretary of the Interior and to the Congress of the United States an annual report documenting the activities and expenditures for which any such assistance was used during the preceding fiscal year.

Appropriation authorization.

SEC. 5. Beginning after September 30, 1983, there is authorized to be appropriated $100,000 to provide financial assistance under section 3 of this Act. There is also authorized to be appropriated for purposes of making grants to the National Council of Negro Women

for purposes of this Act an additional $100,000 to be provided, as may be agreed to by the Secretary of the Interior and the National Council, on a fifty-fifty matching basis to the extent that funds or services are contributed by the National Council for such purposes. Sums authorized to be appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

Approved October 15, 1982.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2436:

SENATE REPORT: No. 97-534 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 128 (1982):
Sept. 22, considered and passed Senate.
Sept. 30, considered and passed House.
WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 18, No. 41: (1982)
Oct. 15, Presidential statement.