

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1709

To amend the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 to provide additional staff and oversight of funds to carry out the Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 27, 2007

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. OBAMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 to provide additional staff and oversight of funds to carry out the Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Underground
5 Railroad Network to Freedom Reauthorization Act of
6 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. HIRING STAFF FOR THE NATIONAL UNDERGROUND**
 2 **RAILROAD NETWORK.**

3 Section 3 of the National Underground Railroad Net-
 4 work to Freedom Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 469l–1) is
 5 amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the fol-
 6 lowing:

7 “(d) STAFF.—The Secretary shall appoint at least 8
 8 full-time equivalent staff to assist the Secretary in car-
 9 rying out duties under this Act, including providing over-
 10 sight of the grant program established under section 4.”.

11 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 The National Underground Railroad Network to
 13 Freedom Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 469l et seq.) is amend-
 14 ed—

15 (1) in section 4 (16 U.S.C. 469l–2), by striking
 16 subsection (d); and

17 (2) by adding at the end the following:

18 **“SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
 20 priated for each fiscal year to carry out this Act
 21 \$2,500,000.

22 “(b) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made available
 23 under subsection (a)—

24 “(1) \$2,000,000 shall be allocated to carry out
 25 section 3; and

1 “(2) \$500,000 shall be allocated to carry out
2 section 4.

3 “(c) LIMITATION.—Any amounts made available
4 under this section shall be made available only to the Sec-
5 retary to carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary
6 under this Act.

7 “(d) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made available under
8 this section shall remain available until expended.”.

9 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

10 The amendments made by sections 2 and 3 shall take
11 effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year after the
12 date of enactment of this Act.

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