

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 152

To provide for the issuance of a forever stamp to recognize the historical importance of Prince Hall Freemasonry, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2017

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To provide for the issuance of a forever stamp to recognize the historical importance of Prince Hall Freemasonry, 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 “Prince Hall Free-
5 masonry Stamp Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) Prince Hall Freemasonry was founded by
9 Prince Hall on March 6, 1775;

1 (2) Hall and fourteen other men of color were
2 rejected by colonial Freemasonry due to their race;

3 (3) the group was later initiated into Masonry
4 through a military lodge created during the Amer-
5 ican Revolutionary War, but were later denied ad-
6 mission to Lodges in the United States after the
7 war;

8 (4) Prince Hall Freemasonry was founded on
9 ideals of equality, liberty and peace; and

10 (5) Prince Hall Masons are the oldest and larg-
11 est group of Masons of African origin in the world.

12 **SEC. 3. PRINCE HALL FREEMASONRY STAMP.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to the recognize the his-
14 torical importance of Prince Hall Freemasonry, the Post-
15 master General shall provide for the issuance of a forever
16 stamp suitable for that purpose that depicts the logo of
17 Prince Hall Freemasonry.

18 (b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this Act, the term
19 “forever stamp” means a definitive stamp which meets the
20 postage required for first-class mail up to one ounce in
21 weight, and which retains full validity for that purpose
22 even if the rate of that postage is later increased.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The stamp described in sub-
2 section (a) shall be issued beginning as soon as practicable
3 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

