

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 857

To amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 5 (legislative day, APRIL 4), 2017

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network, 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 “African American Civil
5 Rights Network Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

8 (1) to recognize—

1 (A) the importance of the African Amer-
2 ican civil rights movement; and

3 (B) the sacrifices made by the people who
4 fought against discrimination and segregation;
5 and

6 (2) to authorize the National Park Service to
7 coordinate and facilitate Federal and non-Federal
8 activities to commemorate, honor, and interpret—

9 (A) the history of the African American
10 civil rights movement;

11 (B) the significance of the civil rights
12 movement as a crucial element in the evolution
13 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C.
14 2000a et seq.); and

15 (C) the relevance of the African American
16 civil rights movement in fostering the spirit of
17 social justice and national reconciliation.

18 **SEC. 3. AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS NETWORK PRO-**
19 **GRAM.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subdivision 1 of division B of sub-
21 title III of title 54, United States Code, is amended by
22 inserting after chapter 3083 the following:

23 **“CHAPTER 3084—AFRICAN AMERICAN**
24 **CIVIL RIGHTS NETWORK**

“Sec.

“308401. Definition of Network.

“308402. African American Civil Rights Network.

“308403. Cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding.

1 **“§ 308401. Definition of Network**

2 “In this chapter, the term ‘Network’ means the Afri-
3 can American Civil Rights Network established under sec-
4 tion 308402(a).

5 **“§ 308402. African American Civil Rights Network**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish,
7 within the Service, a program to be known as the ‘African
8 American Civil Rights Network’.

9 “(b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—In carrying out the
10 Network, the Secretary shall—

11 “(1) review studies and reports to complement
12 and not duplicate studies of the historical impor-
13 tance of the African American civil rights movement
14 that may be underway or completed, such as the
15 Civil Rights Framework Study;

16 “(2) produce and disseminate appropriate edu-
17 cational materials relating to the African American
18 civil rights movement, such as handbooks, maps, in-
19 terpretive guides, or electronic information;

20 “(3) enter into appropriate cooperative agree-
21 ments and memoranda of understanding to provide
22 technical assistance under subsection (c); and

23 “(4)(A) create and adopt an official, uniform
24 symbol or device for the Network; and

1 “(B) issue regulations for the use of the symbol
2 or device adopted under subparagraph (A).

3 “(c) ELEMENTS.—The Network shall encompass the
4 following elements:

5 “(1) All units and programs of the Service that
6 are determined by the Secretary to relate to the Af-
7 rican American civil rights movement during the pe-
8 riod from 1939 through 1968.

9 “(2) Other Federal, State, local, and privately
10 owned properties that—

11 “(A) relate to the African American civil
12 rights movement;

13 “(B) have a verifiable connection to the
14 African American civil rights movement; and

15 “(C) are included in, or determined by the
16 Secretary to be eligible for inclusion in, the Na-
17 tional Register of Historic Places.

18 “(3) Other governmental and nongovernmental
19 facilities and programs of an educational, research,
20 or interpretive nature that are directly related to the
21 African American civil rights movement.

22 **“§ 308403. Cooperative agreements and memoranda**
23 **of understanding**

24 “To achieve the purposes of this chapter and to en-
25 sure effective coordination of the Federal and non-Federal

1 elements of the Network described in section 308402(c)
2 with System units and programs of the Service, the Sec-
3 retary may enter into cooperative agreements and memo-
4 randa of understanding with, and provide technical assist-
5 ance to the heads of other Federal agencies, States, units
6 of local government, regional governmental bodies, and
7 private entities.”.

8 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters
9 for subdivision 1 of division B of subtitle III of title 54,
10 United States Code, is amended by inserting after the
11 item relating to chapter 3083 the following:

“3084. African American Civil Rights Network308401”.

