

Public Law 106–99
106th Congress

An Act

Nov. 12, 1999
[H.R. 2303]

To direct the Librarian of Congress to prepare the history of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

History of the
House Awareness
and Preservation
Act.
2 USC 183 note.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act”.

2 USC 183.

SEC. 2. WRITTEN HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to available funding and in accordance with the requirements of this Act, the Librarian of Congress shall prepare, print, distribute, and arrange for the funding of, a new and complete written history of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Committee on House Administration. In preparing this written history, the Librarian of Congress shall consult, commission, or engage the services or participation of, eminent historians, Members, and former Members of the House of Representatives.

(b) **GUIDELINES.**—In carrying out subsection (a), the Librarian of Congress shall take into account the following:

(1) The history should be an illustrated, narrative history of the House of Representatives, organized chronologically.

(2) The history’s intended audience is the general reader, as well as Members of Congress and their staffs.

(3) The history should include a discussion of the First and Second Continental Congresses and the Constitutional Convention, especially with regard to their roles in creating the House of Representatives.

(c) **PRINTING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Librarian of Congress shall arrange for the printing of the history.

(2) **PRINTING ARRANGEMENTS.**—The printing may be performed—

(A) by the Public Printer pursuant to the provisions of chapter 5 of title 44, United States Code;

(B) under a cooperative arrangement among the Librarian of Congress, a private funding source obtained pursuant to subsection (e), and a publisher in the private sector; or

(C) under subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(3) **INTERNET DISSEMINATION.**—Any arrangement under paragraph (2) shall include terms for dissemination of the history over the Internet via facilities maintained by the United States Government.

(4) **MEMBER COPIES.**—To the extent that the history is printed by the Public Printer, copies of the history provided to the Congress under subsection (d) shall be charged to the Government Printing Office’s congressional allotment for printing and binding.

(d) **DISTRIBUTION.**—The Librarian of Congress shall make the history available for sale to the public, and shall make available, free of charge, 5 copies to each Member of the House of Representatives and 250 copies to the Senate.

(e) **PRIVATE FUNDING.**—The Librarian of Congress shall solicit and accept funding for the preparation, publication, marketing, and public distribution of the history from private individuals, organizations, or entities.

SEC. 3. ORAL HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

2 USC 183a.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Librarian of Congress shall accept for deposit, preserve, maintain, and make accessible an oral history of the House of Representatives, as told by its Members and former Members, compiled and updated (on a voluntary or contract basis) by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress or other private organization. In carrying out this section, the Librarian of Congress may enlist the voluntary aid or assistance of such organization, or may contract with it for such services as may be necessary.

(b) **DEFINITION OF ORAL HISTORY.**—In this section, the term “oral history” means a story or history consisting of personal recollection as recorded by any one or more of the following means:

(1) Interviews.

(2) Transcripts.

(3) Audio recordings.

(4) Video recordings.

(5) Such other form or means as may be suitable for the recording and preservation of such information.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) orientation programs for freshman Members of the House of Representatives should contain a seminar on the history of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Speaker of the House of Representatives should conduct a series of forums on the topic of the history of the House of Representatives.

Approved November 12, 1999.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 2303:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 145 (1999):

Oct. 25, considered and passed House.

Oct. 29, considered and passed Senate.

