

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5216

To require the establishment of a national database in the National Archives to preserve records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction and to provide grants to State and local entities to establish similar local databases.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2006

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. OWENS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. WOLF, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. BOYD, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FOLEY, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. WATSON, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. BERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To require the establishment of a national database in the National Archives to preserve records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction and to provide grants to State and local entities to establish similar local databases.

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 “Preservation of
5 Records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post-Civil War
6 Reconstruction Act of 2006”.

7 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL DATABASE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Archivist of the United
9 States shall preserve relevant records and establish, as
10 part of the National Archives, an electronically searchable
11 national database consisting of historic records of ser-
12 vitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction,
13 including the Southern Claims Commission Records,
14 Freedmen’s Bureau Records, Records of the Freedmen’s
15 Bank, Slave Impressments Records, Slave Payroll
16 Records, Slave Manifest, and others, contained within the
17 agencies and departments of the Federal Government to
18 assist African Americans and others in conducting genea-
19 logical and historical research.

20 (b) MAINTENANCE.—The database established under
21 this section shall be maintained by the National Archives
22 or an entity within the National Archives designated by
23 the Archivist.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE AND**
2 **LOCAL DATABASES.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The National Historical Publica-
4 tions and Records Commission of the National Archives
5 shall provide grants to States, colleges and universities,
6 and genealogical associations to preserve records and es-
7 tablish electronically searchable databases consisting of
8 local records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil
9 War reconstruction.

10 (b) **MAINTENANCE.**—The databases established using
11 grants provided under this section shall be maintained by
12 appropriate agencies or institutions designated by the Na-
13 tional Historical Publications and Records Commission.

14 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There are authorized to be appropriated—

- 16 (1) \$5,000,000 to implement section 2; and
17 (2) \$5,000,000 to provide grants under section
18 3.

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