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H.R. 5956 –To incentivize the hiring of United States workers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes. (Rep. Bishop, R-UT)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-9719

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered June 5, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R.5956](#) would extend the transition program that allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to regulate immigration to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through the end of 2029. The transitional program seeks to phase out permits that allow nonimmigrants to work in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The bill would make additional changes to transition program to continue to promote American employment in the commonwealth.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate is not available at this time. Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would extend a current law transition program.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 5956 would extend the transition [program](#) that allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to regulate immigration to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which will expire under current law at the end of 2019, through the end of 2029. The transitional program seeks to phase out permits that allow nonimmigrants to work in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bill would amend the transition program to require the secretary to impose a \$200 fee per nonimmigrant worker, each year that a worker is issued a permit. The bill would allow the secretary to adjust the fee annually for inflation. The funds will be deposited into the Treasury of the Commonwealth Government for vocational education or other training programs for U.S. workers.

The secretary is required to impose a \$50 fraud prevention and detection fee on employers filing a petition under the program, the funds of which to be used for detecting immigration benefit fraud. The bill requires the Governor of the Commonwealth Government to submit an annual plan for and

report on the expenditures to the Secretary of Labor, who must issue a determination on the plan and then issue a report to congress on the effectiveness of the Commonwealth Government in meeting the goals of the plan. Payments cannot be made from the funds collected until the expenditure plan has been approved.

During the transition period, current law prevents persons physically present or arriving in the commonwealth from seeking asylum. The bill requires the secretary to submit a report to congress projecting the anticipated number of asylum claims after the transition period ends, and describing the secretary's preparations to process asylum claims.

Beginning in fiscal year 2020, the bill would prohibit the secretary for approving a petition to import a nonimmigrant worker unless the petitioner has applied to the Secretary of Labor for a temporary labor certification that states there are not enough U.S. workers in the commonwealth who able and available to do the job. The certification would also state that the employment of the nonimmigrant will not adversely affect similarly employed U.S. workers. The bill requires the employer to pay nonimmigrant workers the appropriate minimum wage.

The bill would establish a limit on the number of permits that may be issued to nonimmigrant workers. The limit starts at 13,000 in fiscal year 2019 and incrementally decreases to 1,000 in fiscal year 2030.

The bill would require the governor to submit a report that identifies the number of U.S. workers in the Northern Mariana Islands compared to other workers. The bill would require the GAO to submit a report to Congress biennially on this ratio for each of the 5 previous calendar years.

The bill would require the secretary to establish a system to ensure nonimmigrant workers are continued to be paid and employed subject to the terms and conditions in the permit petition.

The secretary may revoke permits for good cause.

The bill would prohibit permits from being issued to employers that are not defined as a legitimate business.

The bill would prohibit permits from being issued to workers in construction occupations if the worker is not applying for a long-term permit.

The bill would establish permits are only valid for one year and may not be renewed for more than two consecutive years. The nonimmigrant worker must remain outside of the U.S. for at least 30 days before applying for a new permit.

The bill allows for long-term permits to be issued for three-year periods, which may be renewed without limit.

The bill requires the Secretaries of Labor and Homeland Security to each publish an interim final rule on the implementation of the bill within 180 days. The bill requires the Secretary of the Interior to submit a report to congress on the fulfillment of the department's responsibilities.

The bill would require the Secretary of Labor to conduct outreach and training in the commonwealth for employers and workers on the amended foreign labor certification process.

The bill would take effect upon enactment and only apply to petitions filed after that date. DHS may delay any provision of this bill until the interim final rule is in place, except for the permit caps.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5956 was introduced on May 24, 2018, and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article IV, Section 3, clause 2
Article I, Section 8, clause 18."

H.R. 1026 – To revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes. (Rep. Nolan, D-MN)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-9719

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered June 5, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R.1026](#) would extend the North Country National Scenic Trail to connect to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The bill would also reroute the trail around a Minnesotan swamp.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) enacting H.R. 1026 would cost about \$5 million over the 2019-2023 period.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Some conservatives may be concerned the bill would extend the North Country National Scenic Trail by an additional 239 miles. The federal government's landholding constitutes over one-quarter of the U.S. landmass, and much of it is poorly managed. The National Park Service, in particular, suffers from a severe backlog of maintenance requirements on existing lands.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 1026 would extend the [North Country National Scenic Trail](#) to connect to the [Appalachian National Scenic Trail](#). The trail would extend 66 miles into Vermont in order to make the connection.

The bill would prohibit the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior from acquiring land that was condemned by a state or local government for the trail in Minnesota or Vermont.

The bill would make explicit that the change in the trail in Minnesota or Vermont shall not prohibit the development, production or transmission of energy if reasonable effort is made to preserve the purpose of the trail and mitigate damage to the trail.

The bill would also reroute the trail around a Minnesotan swamp. According to the committee [report](#), the reroute would incorporate 400 miles of existing trails but require an additional 173 miles to connect these trails to the North Country National Scenic Trail.

The current [trail](#) is over 2,000 miles long, and will be about 4,600 miles when complete. The trail currently spans seven states: North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York.

The report (H. Rept. 115-667) accompanying H.R. 1026, can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1026 was introduced on February 13, 2017, and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. A mark-up session was held April 12, 2018, and the bill was reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill."

H.R. 2991 — Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act (Rep. Smucker, R-PA)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-9719

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered June 5, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 2991](#) would establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area comprised of Lancaster and York Counties, Pennsylvania.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate is not available at this time.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibits measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area comprised of Lancaster and York Counties, Pennsylvania, which would be locally coordinated by the Susquehanna Heritage Corporation.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 2991 would establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area comprised of Lancaster and York Counties, Pennsylvania. The Susquehanna National Heritage Area would be locally coordinated by the Susquehanna Heritage Corporation, a nonprofit organization established under Pennsylvania law.

The bill allows the Susquehanna Heritage Corporation to: (1) prepare reports, programs, projects and other activities as recommended by the management plan for the Susquehanna National Heritage Area; (2) make grants to the state, nonprofits, and other organizations; (3) enter into cooperative agreements with the state, nonprofits, and other organizations; (4) hire and pay staff; (5) obtain funds and services from any source, including federal programs, though the federal cost share may not exceed 50 percent.; and, (6) contract for goods or services.

The bill requires the Susquehanna Heritage Corporation to: (1) prepare a management plan; (2) prioritize implementation of the management plan; (3) consider interests of stakeholders in the area in developing and implementing the management plan; (4) conduct semiannual meetings related to the development and implementation of the management plan; (5) submit a report to the Secretary of the Interior on their accomplishments, expenses, income and grants made; (6) make all records

related to the expenditure of federal funds available for audit; and, (7) require organizations receiving federal funds through the corporation to make their records available for audit.

The bill prohibits the Susquehanna Heritage Corporation from using federal funds to acquire real property, though non-federal funds may be used for this purpose.

The Susquehanna Heritage Corporation is required to submit the management plan to the Secretary of the Interior within three years of funds being made available. The secretary must then approve or disapprove of the plan within 180 days. Should the secretary disapprove of the plan, the secretary must advise the Susquehanna Heritage Corporation on the reasons for the disapproval and make revision recommendations. Once the plan is revised, the secretary has 180 days to approve or disapprove of the revised plan.

The bill encourages federal agencies that are planning to conduct activities that may affect the Susquehanna National Heritage Area to consult and coordinate with the secretary and the Susquehanna Heritage Corporation. The bill does not modify authorizations of federal agencies to manage federal land under their jurisdiction, limit a federal land manager's discretion in implementing an approved and use plan within the boundaries of the area, modify any authorized land use, or affect the authority of a federal agency to provide technical or financial assistance.

The bill does not: (1) abridge public or private land owners' rights, including the right to refrain from participation in activities related to the heritage area; (2) require property owners to permit public or government access to their property; (3) alter land use regulations or approved land use plans; (4) authorize or imply the reservation or appropriation of water or water rights; (5) affect the licensing of facilities of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; (6) diminish the authority of the state to manage fish or wildlife; or, (7) create or affect liability of private property owners.

The bill requires the Secretary to conduct an evaluation and submit a report assessing the Susquehanna Heritage Corporation's progress in accomplishing the purposes of the act and the goals of the management plan, analyzing federal investments in the heritage area, and reviewing the management structure partnership relationships and the funding of the heritage area. The report must also include recommendations for the future role of the National Park Service in the heritage area and be submitted to Congress.

The authority of the secretary to provide assistance terminates 15 years after enactment.

Background information on the National Heritage Area program can be found [here](#).

The House Report (H. Rept.-115-632) accompanying H.R. 4895 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 2991 was introduced on June 21, 2018. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. The bill was marked up on April 18, 2018, and was reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: "Clause 3 of Section 8 of article I of the Constitution."

H.R. 5005 – To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the National Park System (Rep. Lawson, D-FL)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-9719

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered June 5, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5005](#) would require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson, in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the national park system.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) enacting H.R. 4451 would cost less than \$500,000, subject to appropriation.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Some conservatives may be concerned the bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the feasibility of establishing a new unit of the National Park System. The federal government's landholding constitutes over one-quarter of the U.S. landmass, and much of it is poorly managed. The National Park Service, in particular, suffers from a severe backlog of maintenance requirements on existing lands.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 5005 would require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson, in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the national park system.

The secretary would be required to submit a report to Congress within 3 years of funds being made available to carry out the act.

[James Weldon Johnson](#) was born on June 17, 1871, in Jacksonville, Florida. He was a civil rights activist, writer, composer, educator, and lawyer. Importantly, he served as one of the leading figures in the creation and development of the Harlem Renaissance. After graduating from Atlanta University, Johnson was hired as a principal in a grammar school, founded a newspaper, and became the first African American to pass the Florida Bar. Additionally, he later became the first African-American professor at New York University, devoting the remainder of his life to the publication of hundreds of stories and poems. Johnson had died in a car accident on June 26, 1938, at the age of 67.

The report (H. Rept. 115-644) accompanying H.R. 5005, can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5005 was introduced on February 13, 2018, and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. A mark-up session was held on April 11, 2018, and the bill was reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

H.R. 5655 – Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Act (Rep. Barr, R-KY)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-9719

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered June 5, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5655](#) would establish the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in Kentucky, as a unit of the National Park System.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) enacting H.R. 5655 would cost about \$1 million, subject to appropriation.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Some conservatives may be concerned the bill would establish Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument as a new unit of the National Park System. The federal government's landholding constitutes over one-quarter of the U.S. landmass, and much of it is poorly managed. The National Park Service, in particular, suffers from a severe backlog of maintenance requirements on existing lands.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 5655 would establish Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in Kentucky, as a unit of the National Park System.

The bill requires the secretary enter into a written agreement with landowners to donate property that is located within the boundary area and ensure that enough land is acquired to constitute a manageable unit prior to the monument being established.

The secretary may only acquire land by donation, purchase with donated funds, or exchange.

The bill requires the secretary to establish a management plan for the monument within three years of funds being made available, which must then be submitted to congress.

The bill prohibits private property or non-federal public property from being managed without written consent from the owner.

The bill makes explicit that buffer zones are not created by this bill.

[Camp Nelson](#) was established in 1863 as a recruiting station and quartermaster supply base for military operations into Tennessee. Providing the Union Army with more than 10,000 African American soldiers, the site quickly became the third largest training depot for African American soldiers in the country. Importantly, during the Civil War, Camp Nelson saw the emancipation of roughly 10,000 African Americans from slavery in exchange for their service in the Union Army. Camp Nelson is now preserved as a national Civil War Heritage Park and located in Central Kentucky, Jessamine County, close to Nicholasville.

The report (H. Rept. 115-695) accompanying H.R. 5655, can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5655 was introduced on April 27, 2018, and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. A mark-up session was held on May 8, 2018, and the bill was reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: "The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States"

H.R. 801 – Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act (Rep. Lahood, R-IL)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-9719

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered June 5, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 801](#) would establish the Route 66 National Historic Trail.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) enacting H.R. 801 would cost \$2 million over the 2019-2023, subject to appropriation.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Some conservatives may be concerned the bill would establish the Route 66 National Historic Trail. The federal government's landholding constitutes over one-quarter of the U.S. landmass, and much of it is poorly managed. The National Park Service, in particular, suffers from a severe backlog of maintenance requirements on existing lands.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 801 would establish the Route 66 [National Historic Trail](#). The trail would include the entirety of U.S. Highway 66 in existence between 1926 and 1985, a total of 2,400 miles between Chicago, Illinois and Santa Monica, California.

The trail would be administered through the National Park Service.

The bill prohibits the federal government from acquiring land that is outside the federally managed area without consent of the landowner, and from acquiring land that is over a quarter of a mile from either side of the trail.

The bill makes explicit that buffer zones are not created by this bill.

The bill makes explicit that the acquisition of land or the management plan may not prohibit the development, production or transmission of energy.

The bill prohibits the Secretary of the Interior from using eminent domain or condemnation to carry out the bill.

The report (H. Rept. 115-633) accompanying H.R. 3997, can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 801 was introduced on February 10, 2017, and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. A mark-up session was held on January 10, 2018, and the bill was reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2--"The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United State."

H.R. 3997 – Free Veterans from Fees Act, as amended (Rep. Rothfus, R-PA)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-9719

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered June 5, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 3997](#) would waive the special use permit application fee for federal war memorials if the special event's primary purpose is to commemorate or honor veterans or their immediate family.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) enacting H.R. 3997 would increase net discretionary spending by an insignificant amount.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 3997 would waive the special use permit application fee for federal war memorials if the special event's primary purpose is to commemorate or honor veterans or their immediate family.

The report (H. Rept. 115-658) accompanying H.R. 3997, can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4451 was introduced on October 10, 2017, and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. A mark-up session was held on April 11, 2018, and the bill was reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution. To borrow Money on the credit of the United States."