

§ 4691. Findings and purposes**(a) Findings**

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Underground Railroad, which flourished from the end of the 18th century to the end of the Civil War, was one of the most significant expressions of the American civil rights movement during its evolution over more than three centuries.

(2) The Underground Railroad bridged the divides of race, religion, sectional differences, and nationality; spanned State lines and international borders; and joined the American ideals of liberty and freedom expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution to the extraordinary actions of ordinary men and women working in common purpose to free a people.

(3) Pursuant to title VI of Public Law 101-628 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5 note; 104 Stat. 4495), the Underground Railroad Advisory Committee conducted a study of the appropriate means of establishing an enduring national commemorative Underground Railroad program of education, example, reflection, and reconciliation.

(4) The Underground Railroad Advisory Committee found that—

(A) although a few elements of the Underground Railroad story are represented in existing National Park Service units and other sites, many sites are in imminent danger of being lost or destroyed, and many important resource types are not adequately represented and protected;

(B) there are many important sites which have high potential for preservation and visitor use in 29 States, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands;

(C) no single site or route completely reflects and characterizes the Underground Railroad, since its story and associated resources involve networks and regions of the country rather than individual sites and trails; and

(D) establishment of a variety of partnerships between the Federal Government and other levels of government and the private sector would be most appropriate for the protection and interpretation of the Underground Railroad.

(5) The National Park Service can play a vital role in facilitating the national commemoration of the Underground Railroad.

(6) The story and significance of the Underground Railroad can best engage the American people through a national program of the National Park Service that links historic buildings, structures, and sites; routes, geographic areas, and corridors; interpretive centers, museums, and institutions; and programs, activities, community projects, exhibits, and multimedia materials, in a manner that is both unified and flexible.

(b) Purposes

The purposes of sections 4691 to 4691-2 of this title are the following:

(1) To recognize the importance of the Underground Railroad, the sacrifices made by

those who used the Underground Railroad in search of freedom from tyranny and oppression, and the sacrifices made by the people who helped them.

(2) To authorize the National Park Service to coordinate and facilitate Federal and non-Federal activities to commemorate, honor, and interpret the history of the Underground Railroad, its significance as a crucial element in the evolution of the national civil rights movement, and its relevance in fostering the spirit of racial harmony and national reconciliation.

(Pub. L. 105-203, §2, July 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 678.)

§ 4691-1. National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program**(a) In general**

The Secretary of the Interior (in sections 4691 to 4691-3 of this title referred to as the “Secretary”) shall establish in the National Park Service a program to be known as the “National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom” (in sections 4691 to 4691-3 of this title referred to as the “national network”). Under the program, the Secretary shall—

(1) produce and disseminate appropriate educational materials, such as handbooks, maps, interpretive guides, or electronic information;

(2) enter into appropriate cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding to provide technical assistance under subsection (c) of this section; and

(3) create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device for the national network and issue regulations for its use.

(b) Elements

The national network shall encompass the following elements:

(1) All units and programs of the National Park Service determined by the Secretary to pertain to the Underground Railroad.

(2) Other Federal, State, local, and privately owned properties pertaining to the Underground Railroad that have a verifiable connection to the Underground Railroad and that are included on, or determined by the Secretary to be eligible for inclusion on, the National Register of Historic Places.

(3) Other governmental and nongovernmental facilities and programs of an educational, research, or interpretive nature that are directly related to the Underground Railroad.

(c) Cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding

To achieve the purposes of sections 4691 to 4691-3 of this title and to ensure effective coordination of the Federal and non-Federal elements of the national network referred to in subsection (b) of this section with National Park Service units and programs, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding with, and provide technical assistance to—

(1) the heads of other Federal agencies, States, localities, regional governmental bodies, and private entities; and

(2) in cooperation with the Secretary of State, the governments of Canada, Mexico, and any appropriate country in the Caribbean.

(Pub. L. 105-203, §3, July 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 679; Pub. L. 110-229, title III, §361(a)(1), May 8, 2008, 122 Stat. 801.)

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 110-229 struck out subsec. (d) which authorized appropriations for sections 469I to 469I-2 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 110-229, title III, §361(b), May 8, 2008, 122 Stat. 802, provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [enacting section 469I-3 of this title and amending this section and section 469I-2 of this title] shall take effect at the beginning of the fiscal year immediately following the date of the enactment of this Act [May 8, 2008].”

§ 469I-2. Preservation of historic sites or structures

(a) Authority to make grants

The Secretary of the Interior may make grants in accordance with this section for the preservation and restoration of historic buildings or structures associated with the Underground Railroad, and for related research and documentation to sites, programs, or facilities that have been included in the national network.

(b) Grant conditions

Any grant made under this section shall provide that—

(1) no change or alteration may be made in property for which the grant is used except with the agreement of the property owner and the Secretary;

(2) the Secretary shall have the right of access at reasonable times to the public portions of such property for interpretive and other purposes; and

(3) conversion, use, or disposal of such property for purposes contrary to the purposes of sections 469I to 469I-3 of this title, as determined by the Secretary, shall result in a right of the United States to compensation equal to all Federal funds made available to the grantee under sections 469I to 469I-3 of this title.

(c) Matching requirement

The Secretary may obligate funds made available for a grant under this section only if the grantee agrees to match, from funds derived from non-Federal sources, the amount of the grant with an amount that is equal to or greater than the grant. The Secretary may waive the requirement of the preceding sentence with respect to a grant if the Secretary determines that an extreme emergency exists or that such a waiver is in the public interest to assure the preservation of historically significant resources.

(Pub. L. 105-203, §4, as added Pub. L. 106-291, title I, §150(h), Oct. 11, 2000, 114 Stat. 959; amended Pub. L. 110-229, title III, §361(a)(2), May 8, 2008, 122 Stat. 801.)

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 110-229 struck out subsec. (d) which related to funding for purposes of this section for fiscal year 2001 and each subsequent fiscal year.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 110-229 effective at the beginning of the fiscal year immediately following May 8,

2008, see section 361(b) of Pub. L. 110-229, set out as a note under section 469I-1 of this title.

NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER

Pub. L. 106-291, title I, §150(b), Oct. 11, 2000, 114 Stat. 956, provided that:

“(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

“(A) the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (hereinafter ‘Freedom Center’) is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio in 1995;

“(B) the objectives of the Freedom Center are to interpret the history of the Underground Railroad through development of a national cultural institution in Cincinnati, Ohio, that will house an interpretive center, including museum, educational, and research facilities, all dedicated to communicating to the public the importance of the quest for human freedom which provided the foundation for the historic and inspiring story of the Underground Railroad;

“(C) the city of Cincinnati has granted exclusive development rights for a prime riverfront location to the Freedom Center;

“(D) the Freedom Center will be a national center linked through state-of-the-art technology to Underground Railroad sites and facilities throughout the United States and to a constituency that reaches across the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and beyond; and

“(E) the Freedom Center has reached an agreement with the National Park Service to pursue a range of historical and educational cooperative activities related to the Underground Railroad, including but not limited to assisting the National Park Service in the implementation of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act [16 U.S.C. 469I et seq.].

“(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

“(A) to promote preservation and public awareness of the history of the Underground Railroad;

“(B) to assist the Freedom Center in the development of its programs and facilities in Cincinnati, Ohio; and

“(C) to assist the National Park Service in the implementation of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act (112 Stat. 679; 16 U.S.C. 469I and following).”

§ 469I-3. Authorization of appropriations

(a) Amounts

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out sections 469I to 469I-3 of this title \$2,500,000 for each fiscal year, to be allocated as follows:

(1) \$2,000,000 is to be used for the purposes of section 469I-1 of this title.

(2) \$500,000 is to be used for the purposes of section 469I-2 of this title.

(b) Restrictions

No amounts may be appropriated for the purposes of sections 469I to 469I-3 of this title except to the Secretary for carrying out the responsibilities of the Secretary as set forth in sections 469I to 469I-3 of this title.

(Pub. L. 105-203, §5, as added Pub. L. 110-229, title III, §361(a)(3), May 8, 2008, 122 Stat. 801.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective at the beginning of the fiscal year immediately following May 8, 2008, see section 361(b) of Pub. L. 110-229, set out as an Effective Date of 2008 Amendment note under section 469I-1 of this title.