

NATIONAL GREAT BLACK AMERICANS COMMEMORATION
ACT OF 2004 AMENDMENT

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JULY 13, 2010.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. RAHALL, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 3967]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 3967) to amend the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 to authorize appropriations through fiscal year 2015, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 3967 is to amend the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 to authorize appropriations through fiscal year 2015.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

In 1983, Drs. Joanne and Elmer Martin founded a small, store-front museum in downtown Baltimore to inspire young people about the role of African Americans in United States history. The success of the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum allowed them to expand their operation and eventually open up a considerably larger facility in one of Baltimore's most financially impoverished neighborhoods. Since that time, the museum has served as a focal point for business, helping to create a safe, interesting, and motivational tourist destination for both local residents and visitors from around the world.

In the last decade, the museum has established a partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice and the Department's Office

of Justice Programs. Through the creation of a Justice Learning Center, the museum has begun targeting young people with a variety of programs to help fight criminal activity in the area. Using innovative programs tied to the materials in the wax museum and effective outreach, the Justice Learning Center is proactive in fighting the fundamental causes of crime and providing a safe center for education and historical tourism.

In 2004, Congress authorized the Department of Justice to fund the Justice Learning Center at the Great Blacks in Wax Museum as part of their Office of Justice Programs (P.L. 108–238). The authorization expired in 2009 with no funds being appropriated for the Justice Learning Center. H.R. 3967 would amend P.L. 108–238 to authorize appropriations until 2015.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 3967 was introduced on October 29, 2009 by Representative Elijah Cummings (D–MD). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. The bill was also referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. On April 27, 2010, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. Representative Cummings and museum founder Dr. Joanne Martin testified in favor of the legislation.

On June 16, 2010, the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3967 and the full Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. Representative Chaffetz (R–UT) offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute to strike the funding authorization completely from the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004. The amendment was subsequently withdrawn. The bill was then ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to amend the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 to authorize appropriations through fiscal year 2015.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

H.R. 3967—A bill to amend the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 to authorize appropriations through fiscal year 2015

Summary: H.R. 3967 would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million to the Department of Justice for grants to the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc., in Baltimore, Maryland. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3967 would cost \$5 million over the 2011–2015 period. This legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 3967 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of State, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3967 is shown in the following table. The costs of the bill fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011–2015
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	1	1	1	1	1	5
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	1	5

Basis of estimate: For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 3967 will be enacted in 2010 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated as needed beginning in 2011. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending rates for similar grant programs.

H.R. 3967 would reauthorize the appropriation of \$5 million for grants to the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc., a nonprofit organization in Baltimore, Maryland. (The \$5 million authorization for this program expired at the end of fiscal year 2009. No funds were ever appropriated under the original authorization.) The \$5 million would be used to expand the museum and establish a learning center at the site.

Pay-As-You-Go considerations: None.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: H.R. 3967 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in

UMRA and would not affect the budgets of State, local, or tribal governments.

Estimate prepared by: Federal spending: Alan Eder and Deborah Reis; Impact on State, local, and tribal governments: Melissa Merrell; Impact on the private sector: Amy Petz.

Estimate approved by: Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

EARMARK STATEMENT

H.R. 3967 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

**NATIONAL GREAT BLACK AMERICANS
COMMEMORATION ACT OF 2004**

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**SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR NATIONAL GREAT BLACKS IN WAX MUSEUM
AND JUSTICE LEARNING CENTER.**

(a) * * *

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(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000, to remain available through the end of fiscal year **[2009]** 2015.