



H.R. 2933 – Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 2933 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Gary Miller (R-CA) on June 28, 2007. The bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote on July 29, 2008.

H.R. 2933 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 2933 extends the authorization of the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 through 2013. The bill authorizes \$10 million for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

BACKGROUND

The American Battlefield Act of 1996 established the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), which promotes the protection, restoration, and awareness of historically significant American battlefields. The ABPP is administered by the National Park Service and requires matching funds from private donors. Eligibility for the program is currently limited to Civil War battlefields.

According to the National Park Service, this grant program has assisted in the permanent protection of 13,906 acres at 54 Civil War battlefields in 14 states. Authorization for the program expires September 30, 2008.

COST

According to the Congressional Budget Office, "Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the National Park Service would spend \$42 million over the 2009-2013 period (and \$8 million in later years) to carry out this grant program. The legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues." ([CBO Cost Estimate](#))

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

Representative Rob Bishop (R-UT) in the Additional Views of the Committee Report: "it would be tragic if we allow our well-meaning enthusiasm for protecting historic sites to result in programs that diminish the property rights of our fellow citizens. This bill has two important safeguards. There is a 'willing seller' provision – and we need to make sure the seller's willingness is un-coerced – and there is a sunset provision on the program's funding authorization. The bill's sponsors are to be commended for including these safeguards."

STAFF CONTACT

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