

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 198

Approved June 23, 2010

WHEREAS, The historical records housed in archives around the United States protect our rights as American citizens, hold government accountable, and educate, inform and ensure the cultural heritage of this country; and

WHEREAS, Much of the American record – evidence of births, education, marriage, property owned, obligations satisfied, and criminal conduct – is held at the state and local level; and

WHEREAS, The preservation, access and use of the historical records held in states, regions, and localities around the country is essential to sustaining the information needs of government officials, lawyers, scholars, teachers, students, genealogists, business people and a wide range of users; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council, through its establishment of the Special Commission to Study Archival Storage, has reaffirmed the importance of preserving and maintaining our historical records; and

WHEREAS, The Special Commission recently completed its work and made a series of recommendations detailing what the City must do to better protect its historical archive; and

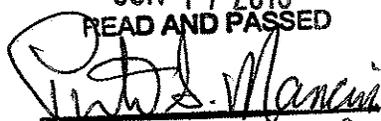
WHEREAS, Our nation has recognized the importance of history by its support of national institutions – the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution; and

WHEREAS, The existing federal support is not adequate to reach the rest of our nation's archives being held in government agencies, state and local historical societies, archives and library history collections; and

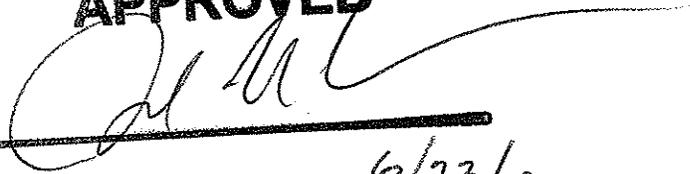
WHEREAS, The Preserving the American Historical Record Act would provide \$50 million to states and territories, including \$241,582 for Rhode Island, for projects to provide access to historical information, as well as \$37.5 million to support jobs related to historic preservation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby supports the passage of the Preserving the American Historical Record Act to establish a formal program at the national level to develop programs and practices in each state and territory to ensure the historical records of this country receive the attention and use necessary to continue to document our heritage and support our democracy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon adoption, copies of this resolution be forwarded to the sponsors of the Preserving the American Historical Record Act, as well as to the entire Rhode Island congressional delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUN 17 2010
READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR 6/23/10

[Congress](#) > [Legislation](#) > 2009-2010 (111th Congress) > [S. 3227](#)

Text of S. 3227: Preserving the American Historical Record Act

Apr 19, 2010 - Introduced in Senate. This is the original text of the bill as it was written by its sponsor and submitted to the Senate for consideration. This is the latest version of the bill currently available on GovTrack.

S 3227 IS

111th CONGRESS

2d Session

S. 3227

To authorize the Archivist of the United States to make grants to States for the preservation and dissemination of historical records.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

April 19, 2010

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. SCHUMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Archivist of the United States to make grants to States for the preservation and dissemination of historical records.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Preserving the American Historical Record Act'.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

- (1) Much of the American historical record, such as evidence of births, education, marriage, divorce, property

owned, obligations satisfied, and criminal conduct, is held at the State and local level by organizations that preserve the records that protect the rights of the Nation.

(2) The United States has recognized the importance of history by its support of national institutions such as the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institution. Yet, this support is not adequate to reach the rest of the Nation's archives being held in State and local historical societies, archives, and library history collections.

(3) More resources need to be directed to State and local organizations to ensure essential care of documents and archival records in their many forms so that they can be readily used by the people of this Nation.

(4) History connects people to community--whether the community is a family, a neighborhood, a city, a State, or a Nation. Connections to the past are essential to sustaining democracy, educating students, creating a sense of place in family and community, supporting information needs in business and legal affairs, and making reasoned decisions about the Nation's future direction.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are--

(1) to protect historical records from harm, to prolong their life, and to preserve them for public use, through the use of electronic records initiatives and plans for disaster preparedness, recovery, and other preservation activities;

(2) to use historical records in new and creative ways to convey the importance of State, territorial, and community history, including the development of teaching materials for elementary, secondary, and postsecondary teachers, active participation in National History Day, and support for lifelong learning opportunities;

(3) to provide education and training to archivists and others who care for historical records, ensuring that they have the necessary knowledge

and skills to fulfill their important responsibilities; and

(4) to create a wide variety of access tools, including archival finding aids, documentary editions, indexes, and images of key records maintained on Internet websites of State and local organizations.

SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.

The Archivist shall make grants under this Act to States to carry out programs consistent with the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 5. USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.

(a) Requirements- The Archivist may not award grants to any State under this Act unless--

(1) the State agrees to use grant amounts only to carry out programs consistent with the purposes of this Act;

(2) the State certifies the availability of State or private funds, or an in-kind equivalent, equal to half the amount of the grant to be awarded to the State; and

(3) the State ensures that grant amounts are used to supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be available for those purposes.

(b) Additional Conditions- The Archivist may require additional terms and conditions in connection with the use of grant amounts provided under this Act as the Archivist considers appropriate.

SEC. 6. STATE ALLOCATIONS.

(a) In General- The Archivist shall award grant amounts under this Act in accordance with this section.

(b) Calculation of Allocations- The Archivist shall allocate funds made available to carry out this Act to the States as follows:

(1) 10 percent of the total available funds divided equally among the States.

(2) 82 percent of such funds allotted to the States on the basis of their relative total population, adjusted

every decade based on the United States Census.

(3) 8 percent of such funds allotted to the States by geographic size.

(c) State Grants- From funds allocated under subsection (b), the Archivist shall make grants to the State archival administrative agency of each State.

(d) Reallocation- The State archival administrative agency shall return any funds received under subsection (c) that the State archival administrative agency does not obligate within one year of receiving a grant, and the Archivist shall reallocate such funds to the remaining States in accordance with subsection (b).

(e) Consultation With State Archivists and Secretaries of State- In carrying out this section, the Archivist shall consult with State archivists, State secretaries of state, or other appropriate State and local officials who have administrative responsibilities for archival functions.

SEC. 7. APPLICATION.

The Archivist may award grant amounts under this Act only to a State that has submitted an application to the Archivist at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Archivist may require.

SEC. 8. REVIEW AND SANCTIONS.

(a) Annual Report by State- Each State receiving funds under this Act during a calendar year shall provide to the Archivist, no later than January 31 of the following year, a report on activities supported by such funds during the previous calendar year.

(b) Annual Review- The Archivist shall review annually the report provided by each State under subsection (a) to determine the extent to which the State has complied with the provisions of this Act.

(c) Imposition of Sanctions- The Archivist may impose sanctions on any State for any failure to comply substantially with the provisions of this Act. The Archivist shall establish the sanctions to be imposed for a failure to comply substantially with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. ANNUAL REPORT.

Not later than April 1 of each year, the Archivist shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of

the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report describing the activities carried out under this Act and containing any related information that the Archivist considers appropriate.

SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

- (1) STATE- The term 'State' means each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- (2) ARCHIVIST- The term 'Archivist' means the Archivist of the United States appointed under section 2103 of title 44, United States Code.
- (3) HISTORICAL RECORD- The term 'historical record' means unpublished materials created or received by a person, family, or organization, public or private, in the conduct of their affairs that are preserved because of the enduring value contained in the information they contain or as evidence of the functions and responsibilities of their creator.
- (4) STATE ARCHIVIST- The term 'State Archivist' means the individual mandated by law within each State with responsibility for managing the archival records of State government.
- (5) STATE ARCHIVAL ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY- The term 'State archival administrative agency' means the agency mandated by law within each State with the responsibility for managing the archival records of State government.

SEC. 11. REGULATIONS.

The Archivist shall prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Archivist \$50,000,000 each fiscal year for 5 fiscal years, beginning with the first fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, to make grants under this Act.

HR 2256 IH

111th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 2256

To authorize the Archivist of the United States to make grants to States for the preservation and dissemination of historical records.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**May 5, 2009**

Mr. HINCHEY (for himself, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. BARROW, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. CROWLEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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adequate to reach the rest of the Nation's archives being held in State and local historical societies, archives, and library history collections.

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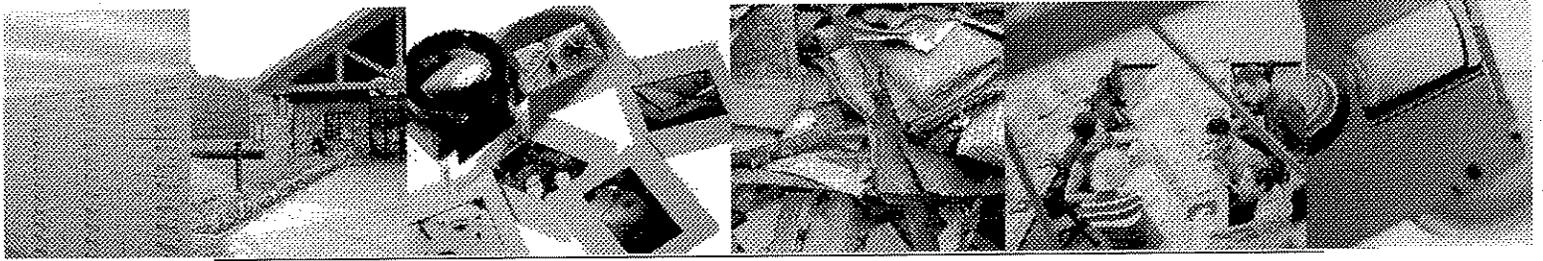
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SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

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END



What the “Preserving the American Historical Record” Act will mean for our nation

A total of \$50 million would be distributed to the states and territories each year using a formula based on population and area (see table on back).

Competitive grants would be available to the nation’s 87,525 local governments; more than 8,000 local archives, historical societies, and heritage organizations; 9,198 public libraries; and more than 3,650 academic institutions with library and archival holdings.

If we had this program, you might see:

- ◆ Researchers using an online digital collection of each state’s historic photographs, documents, and maps
- ◆ Teachers and students using an online educational site of archival records with lessons that support the teaching of state history and a host of other academic subjects, from kindergarten through graduate school
- ◆ Family historians searching name indexes online for military service, land ownership, naturalization, and state and federal censuses
- ◆ The public attending exhibits and programs in libraries and museums—or even at interstate rest stops, shopping malls, and community centers
- ◆ Officials and researchers using databases, email files, and other digital records that have been saved in a way that they can always be read
- ◆ Government officials following a well-designed disaster plan to save essential records and resume operations after a flood or tornado

Please help us Preserve the American Historical Record



For more information

Visit www.Archivists.org/pahr

Email: pahr@StateArchivists.org



Preserving the American Historical Record: Funding Projections by State
(Based on \$50 Million Appropriation)

Alabama	\$783,668	New Hampshire	\$276,749
Alaska	\$870,929	New Jersey	\$1,307,818
Arizona	\$946,785	New Mexico	\$478,829
Arkansas	\$529,544	New York	\$2,874,047
California	\$5,129,918	North Carolina	\$1,302,865
Colorado	\$817,149	North Dakota	\$256,071
Connecticut	\$584,588	Ohio	\$1,768,230
Delaware	\$204,530	Oklahoma	\$658,870
Dist. of Columbia	\$171,569	Oregon	\$684,672
Florida	\$2,455,612	Pennsylvania	\$1,902,890
Georgia	\$1,328,496	Rhode Island	\$241,582
Hawaii	\$274,929	South Carolina	\$699,627
Idaho	\$363,302	South Dakota	\$279,021
Illinois	\$1,935,252	Tennessee	\$951,373
Indiana	\$1,001,565	Texas	\$3,369,162
Iowa	\$569,155	Utah	\$499,691
Kansas	\$562,359	Vermont	\$186,918
Kentucky	\$712,758	Virginia	\$1,151,695
Louisiana	\$786,201	Washington	\$1,011,530
Maine	\$309,803	West Virginia	\$374,715
Maryland	\$863,588	Wisconsin	\$929,181
Massachusetts	\$1,012,923	Wyoming	\$263,305
Michigan	\$1,619,667		
Minnesota	\$887,927	<i>Territories:</i>	
Mississippi	\$549,156	Puerto Rico	\$604,835
Missouri	\$966,890	Virgin Islands	\$104,059
Montana	\$373,865	American Samoa	\$96,000
Nebraska	\$416,731	Guam	\$108,644
Nevada	\$492,965	No. Mariana Islands	\$95,704

Preserving the American Historical Record: **What About Jobs?**

PAHR will stimulate job growth

- If fully funded, PAHR will provide **\$37,500,000 to support jobs** throughout the country, or over 1000 jobs annually.
- PAHR will provide **\$50 million in federal funding** to the states and territories for projects to protect and provide access to historical records.
- Historical records projects are “jobs-heavy.” Existing grant programs demonstrate that (on average) **75% of funds for such projects are used to pay staff.**

Current job statistics:

- There are more than 11,000 professional archivists in the United States working in 8,500 government agencies, historical societies, libraries, museums, academic institutions, and other organizations in the U.S.
- These professional archivists are responsible for providing care for and public access to more than 44,000,000,000 items of paper historical records, and more than 727,000,000,000 photographs documenting the people, organizations, governments, and history of this country.
- More than 1,250 students are currently enrolled in graduate archival education programs, and they will be seeking jobs in the next two years.
- State government archives have experienced cuts in their budgets averaging 12%, including reductions in staff through retirement, attrition and layoffs, so the number of jobs is currently *declining*.

PAHR is a viable route for stimulating the creation and stabilization of jobs in the archival profession. The cost is small in comparison to the return on this investment!