

Public Law 95-129
95th Congress

An Act

To provide for the establishment of a Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, and for other purposes.

Oct. 13, 1977

[S. 1331]

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

Library of
Congress.
Center for
the Book.
Establishment.
2 USC 171.

DECLARATION OF FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1. The Congress hereby finds and declares—

(1) that the Congress of the United States on April 24, 1800, established for itself a library of the Congress;

(2) that in 1815, the Congress purchased the personal library of the third President of the United States which contained materials on every science known to man and described such a collection as a "substratum of a great national library";

(3) that the Congress of the United States in recognition of the importance of printing and its impact on America purchased the Gutenberg Bible in 1930 for the Nation for placement in the Library of Congress;

(4) that the Congress of the United States has through statute and appropriations made this library accessible to any member of the public;

(5) that this collection of books and other library materials has now become one of the greatest libraries in civilization;

(6) that the book and the printed word have had the most profound influence on American civilization and learning and have been the very foundation on which our democratic principles have survived through our two hundred-year history;

(7) that in the year 1977, the Congress of the United States assembled hereby declares its reaffirmation of the importance of the printed word and the book and recognizes the importance of a Center for the Book to the continued study and development of written record as central to our understanding of ourselves and our world.

It is therefore the purpose of this Act to establish a Center for the Book in the Library of Congress to provide a program for the investigation of the transmission of human knowledge and to heighten public interest in the role of books and printing in the diffusion of this knowledge.

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 2. As used in this Act—

2 USC 172.

- (1) the term Center means the Center for the Book;
- (2) the term Librarian means the Librarian of Congress.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER

SEC. 3. There is hereby established in the Library of Congress a Center for the Book.

2 USC 173.

The Center shall be under the direction of the Librarian of Congress.

FUNCTION OF THE CENTER

2 USC 174.

SEC. 4. The Librarian through the Center shall stimulate public interest and research in the role of the book in the diffusion of knowledge through such activities as a visiting scholar program accompanied by lectures, exhibits, publications, and any other related activities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

2 USC 175.

Regulations.

SEC. 5. The Librarian of Congress, in carrying out the Center's functions, is authorized to—

- (1) prescribe such regulations as he deems necessary;
- (2) receive money and other property donated, bequeathed, or devised for the purposes of the Center, and to use, sell, or otherwise dispose of such property for the purposes of carrying out the Center's functions, without reference to Federal disposal statutes; and
- (3) accept and utilize the services of voluntary and noncompensated personnel and reimburse them for travel expenses, including per diem, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

Approved October 13, 1977.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 95-491 accompanying H.R. 6214 (Comm. on House Administration).

SENATE REPORT No. 95-315 (Comm. on Rules and Administration).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 123 (1977):

July 12, considered and passed Senate.

Sept. 26, considered and passed House, amended, in lieu of H.R. 6214.

Sept. 30, Senate agreed to House amendments.