

[H.R. 959, Medgar Evers House Study Act, as amended](#)

FLOOR SITUATION

On Wednesday, September 16, 2015, the House will consider [H.R. 959](#), *the Medgar Evers House Study Act, as amended*, under suspension of the rules. H.R. 959 was introduced on February 12, 2015 by Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS) and was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, which ordered the bill reported by unanimous consent on July 9, 2015.

SUMMARY

H.R. 959 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the former home of the late civil rights leader, Medgar Evers. The bill requires the study to evaluate the national significance of the site and determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the site as a unit of the National Park System.

The bill requires that the study consider alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the site by federal, state or local governmental entities or private and non-profit organizations and identify cost estimates for any federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

The bill also requires the Secretary, not later than three years after the date on which funds are made available for the study, to provide Congress the results of the study and any conclusions and recommendations made by the Secretary.

BACKGROUND

Medgar Evers, a native of Decatur, Mississippi, was inducted into the U.S. Army in 1943. He fought in the Battle of Normandy and later attended Alcorn State University, majoring in business administration. Mr. Evers eventually applied to the then-segregated University of Mississippi Law School in February 1954. When his application was rejected, he became the focus of a National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) campaign to desegregate the school. In December of that year, Evers became the NAACP's first field officer in Mississippi. As one of the nation's preeminent civil rights leaders, he was instrumental in eventually desegregating the

university. He was assassinated outside his home in Jackson, Mississippi, on June 12, 1963. Mr. Evers is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.¹

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that carrying out the proposed study would cost about \$200,000. Enacting H.R. 959 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [Jerry White](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 5-0190.

¹ <http://www.naACP.org/pages/naACP-history-medgar-evers>