

# Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop Chairman  
Markup Memorandum

August 31, 2018

To: All Natural Resources Committee Members

From: Majority Committee Staff— Terry Camp  
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x67736)

Markup: **H.R. 5420 (Rep. John Faso)**, To authorize the acquisition of land for addition to the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site in the State of New York, and for other purposes.  
**September 5, 2018, 10:15 am; 1324 Longworth House Office Building**

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## *H.R. 5420, "FDR Historic Preservation Act"*

### **Summary of the Bill**

The FDR Historic Preservation Act, H.R. 5420, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire by donation, purchase from a willing seller using donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, approximately 89 acres of land adjacent to the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, and to incorporate the parcel into the site.

### **Background**

The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, located in Hyde Park, New York, was designated on January 15, 1944, to preserve the birthplace and life-long home of the 32nd President of the United States.<sup>1</sup> The centerpiece of the nearly 850-acre property, President Roosevelt's home called Springwood, was built around 1793 and purchased by Roosevelt's father in 1867.<sup>2</sup> By 1915, Franklin and his mother, Sara, had completed extensive renovations to the structure and the home's interior.<sup>3</sup>

Inherited by FDR upon his mother's death in 1941, the home and much of the estate were transferred to the federal government at the President's request. Known as his summer White House, FDR entertained many visiting heads of state at the home. President Roosevelt also helped design and build the first Presidential library on the property.<sup>4</sup> The interior remains as it was during Roosevelt's lifetime. The grounds feature flower gardens, outbuildings, and miles of walking trails. The estate's rose garden contains the graves of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The National Parks: Index 1916-2016. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Publishing Office, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> "Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area." Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Accessed August 29, 2018. <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.com/sites/Home-of-Franklin-D-Roosevelt-National-Historic-Site/details>.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> The National Parks: Index 1916-2016. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Publishing Office, 2016.

<sup>5</sup> "Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area." Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Accessed August 29, 2018. <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.com/sites/Home-of-Franklin-D-Roosevelt-National-Historic-Site/details>.

Since its addition to the National Park System in 1944, the site's boundaries have been modified several times to include new land. The Scenic Hudson Land Trust (SHLT) owns approximately 89 acres adjacent to the site that it wishes to sell to the National Park Service. The property is largely unimproved (except for a small house and garage) and is subject to a conservation easement that has been held by the SHLT since 1995. The SHLT advocates that the property provides important context to visitors, and that its addition will provide better connectivity to a section of the Hyde Park Trail that links the Home of FDR National Historic Site with the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site to the north.

### **Cost**

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.

### **Administration Position**

The Administration's position is currently unknown.

### **Anticipated Amendment**

An amendment will be offered to limit the acquisition of the land to donation, purchase from a willing seller using donated funds or by exchange.

### **Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)**

None.