

Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Tom McClintock, Chairman

Hearing Memorandum

February 23, 2018

To: All Federal Lands Subcommittee Members

From: Majority Committee Staff—Terry Camp
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x6-7736)

Hearing: Legislative hearing on **H.R. 3008 (Rep. Michael Conaway)**, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the George W. Bush Childhood Home, located at 1412 West Ohio Avenue, Midland, Texas, and for other purposes.
February 28, 2018, 2:00 PM; 1324 Longworth House Office Building

H.R. 3008, “George W. Bush Childhood Home Study Act”

Summary of the Bill

H.R. 3008, introduced by Representative K. Michael Conaway (R-TX-11), directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the childhood home of former President George W. Bush in Midland, Texas to determine the national significance of the site and its suitability for inclusion in the National Park System.

Cosponsors

Rep. John Abney Culberson [R-TX-07], Rep. Pete Sessions [R-TX-32], Rep. John R. Carter [R-TX-31], Rep. Lamar Smith [R-TX-21], Rep. Sam Johnson [R-TX-03], and Rep. Ted Poe [R-TX-02]

Witnesses

Mr. Paul St. Hilaire
Executive Director
George W. Bush Childhood Home
Midland, TX

Background

The George W. Bush Childhood Home is located at 1412 W. Ohio Avenue in Midland, Texas. The home is approximately 1400 square feet and has been left relatively unchanged since 1956.¹ The site currently functions as a museum managed by a nonprofit entity, the George W.

¹ “About the Project” The George W. Bush Childhood Home. <http://www.bushchildhoodhome.org/about>

Bush Childhood Home, Inc. The non-profit recently purchased a neighboring home to function as administrative offices and a gift shop.²

President George W. Bush, born on July 6, 1946, in Connecticut, has spent most of his life in Texas. The Bush family lived in the W. Ohio Avenue home in Midland, Texas for 4 years, beginning when George W. Bush was 5 years old.³ As their family grew, the family moved to a larger house in Midland and eventually moved to Houston, Texas.

President Bush went to high school in Andover, Massachusetts, and followed his father and grandfather's footsteps by attending Yale University. After graduating from Yale, he enlisted in the Texas Air National Guard. After his Guard duty, he continued his education at Harvard Business School.⁴

Bush returned to Midland after graduating, where he met his future wife, Laura. The couple settled in Midland while Bush worked in the oil industry and worked on his father's presidential campaigns.⁵ After his father lost the presidential election in 1992, George W. Bush turned to politics himself. In 1994, Bush was elected governor of Texas and became the first Texas governor to be elected to consecutive four-year terms. In 2000, Bush was elected the 43rd President of the United States and served two terms.⁶

H.R. 3008 directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the childhood home of former President George W. Bush to determine the national significance of the site and its suitability for inclusion as a unit of the National Park System.

Cost

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

Administration Position

The Administration's position is currently unknown.

Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)

None.

² "Project Highlights" The George W. Bush Childhood Home. <http://www.bushchildhoodhome.org/highlights>

³ "Bush Family Timeline" The George W. Bush Childhood Home <http://www.bushchildhoodhome.org/timeline>

⁴ "George W. Bush" Biography.com <https://www.biography.com/people/george-w-bush-9232768>

⁵ "George W. Bush Biography" Encyclopedia of Biography <http://www.notablebiographies.com/Br-Ca/Bush-George-W.html>

⁶ "George W. Bush" Biography.com <https://www.biography.com/people/george-w-bush-9232768>