

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 685

To require a study of the feasibility of establishing the United States Civil Rights Trail System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 2009

Mr. CLAY (for himself and Mr. WAMP) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require a study of the feasibility of establishing the United States Civil Rights Trail System, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States Civil
5 Rights Trail System Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

7 (a) STUDY.—The Archivist of the United States, in
8 consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, and with
9 the Secretary of Agriculture with respect to lands adminis-
10 tered by such Secretary, shall conduct a study of the feasi-

1 bility of establishing the United States Civil Rights Trail
 2 System, as described in subsection (b), in substantially the
 3 same manner as studies performed by the Secretary of the
 4 Interior under section 5(b) of the National Trails System
 5 Act (Public Law 109–418).

6 (b) DESCRIPTION OF UNITED STATES CIVIL RIGHTS
 7 TRAIL SYSTEM.—For purposes of this section, the United
 8 States Civil Rights Trail System is a system of trails
 9 marking the geographic locations in the United States (in-
 10 cluding its territories) of historically significant events re-
 11 lated to struggles for civil rights based on racial equality,
 12 including signage or printed materials (or both) that pro-
 13 vide information about the people and events involved in
 14 such struggles and associated with such location.

15 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall
 17 establish and maintain individual trails marking the geo-
 18 graphic locations of historically significant events related
 19 to struggles for civil rights based on racial equality. The
 20 Secretary shall provide for each trail signage or printed
 21 materials (or both) that provide information about the
 22 people and events involved in such struggles and associ-
 23 ated with such locations.

24 (b) LOCATION AND TIMING.—The Secretary may es-
 25 tablish such a trail in each State where a significant civil

1 rights event occurred. The Secretary shall establish at
2 least 6 such trails as soon as practicable after the date
3 of enactment of this Act.

4 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
5 out this section there are authorized to be appropriated
6 to the Secretary of the Interior such sums as are necessary
7 for fiscal years 2010 through 2016.

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