

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1154

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and
Public Works

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Great Dismal Swamp
3 National Heritage Area Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term “Heritage
7 Area” means the Great Dismal Swamp National
8 Heritage Area.

9 (2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of the Interior.

11 (3) **STATES.**—The term “States” means the
12 States of Virginia and North Carolina.

13 (4) **STUDY AREA.**—The term “study area”
14 means—

15 (A) the cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk,
16 Portsmouth, and Suffolk in the State of Vir-
17 ginia;

18 (B) Isle of Wight County in the State of
19 Virginia;

20 (C) Camden, Currituck, Gates, and
21 Pasquotank counties in the State of North
22 Carolina; and

23 (D) any other areas in the States that—

24 (i) have heritage aspects that are
25 similar to the areas described in subpara-
26 graphs (A), (B), or (C); and

1 (ii) are adjacent to, or in the vicinity
2 of, those areas.

3 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
5 with State and local organizations and governmental agen-
6 cies, Tribal governments, non-profit organizations, and
7 other appropriate entities, shall conduct a study to assess
8 the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area
9 as a National Heritage Area, to be known as the “Great
10 Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area”.

11 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include anal-
12 ysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the
13 study area—

14 (1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and
15 cultural resources that—

16 (A) represent distinctive aspects of the
17 people and cultures of the United States;

18 (B) are worthy of recognition, conserva-
19 tion, interpretation, and continuing use; and

20 (C) would be best managed—

21 (i) through partnerships among public
22 and private entities; and

23 (ii) by linking diverse and sometimes
24 noncontiguous resources and active com-
25 munities;

1 (2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and
2 folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the
3 United States;

4 (3) provides outstanding opportunities—

5 (A) to conserve natural, historic, cultural,
6 or scenic features; and

7 (B) for recreation and education;

8 (4) contains resources that—

9 (A) are important to any identified themes
10 of the study area; and

11 (B) retain a degree of integrity capable of
12 supporting interpretation;

13 (5) includes residents, business interests, non-
14 profit organizations, and State, local, and Tribal
15 governments, and other appropriate entities that—

16 (A) are involved in the planning of the
17 Heritage Area;

18 (B) have developed a conceptual financial
19 plan that outlines the roles of all participants in
20 the Heritage Area, including the Federal Gov-
21 ernment; and

22 (C) have demonstrated support for the des-
23 ignation of the Heritage Area;

24 (6) has a potential management entity to work
25 in partnership with the individuals and entities de-

1 scribed in paragraph (5) to develop the Heritage
2 Area while encouraging State and local economic ac-
3 tivity; and

4 (7) has a conceptual boundary map that is sup-
5 ported by the public.

6 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

7 Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds
8 are first made available to carry out this Act, the Sec-
9 retary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Re-
10 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
11 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
12 a report that describes—

13 (1) the findings of the study under section 3;

14 and

15 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
16 Secretary.

Passed the House of Representatives September 28,
2021.

Attest:

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,

Clerk.