

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1581

To establish the Fort Monroe National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Fort Monroe National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Virginia, 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 “Fort Monroe National
5 Historical Park Establishment Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) COMMONWEALTH.—The term “Common-
9 wealth” means the Commonwealth of Virginia.

1 (2) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map ti-
2 tled “Fort Monroe National Historical Park Pro-
3 posed Boundary”, numbered 250/193734, and dated
4 June 2024.

5 (3) HISTORICAL PARK.—The term “Historical
6 Park” means the Fort Monroe National Historical
7 Park established by section (3)(a).

8 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of the Interior.

10 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT MONROE NATIONAL HIS-**
11 **TORICAL PARK.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Fort
13 Monroe National Historical Park in the Commonwealth to
14 preserve the historic, natural, and recreational resources
15 of Fort Monroe and interpret for the benefit of present
16 and future generations—

17 (1) Old Point Comfort, its relationship to the
18 voyages of Captain John Smith, its location as the
19 first entry place of captive Africans into English
20 North America, its use for successive fortifications,
21 and its role in the War of 1812;

22 (2) the development and use of Fort Monroe as
23 a coastal defense facility and artillery training cen-
24 ter, including its military and community life;

1 (3) the fort’s role in the Civil War, including
2 the 1861 Contraband Decision providing a pathway
3 to freedom for those escaping enslavement during
4 that war, and the formation and service of United
5 States Colored Troop units stationed at Fort Mon-
6 roe;

7 (4) persons and events associated with the fort,
8 which contributed to its and the Nation’s history,
9 and their relevance to modern society; and

10 (5) the natural and recreational resource values
11 associated with Fort Monroe.

12 (b) ABOLISHMENT OF NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The
13 Fort Monroe National Monument, established by Presi-
14 dential Proclamation 8750 of November 1, 2011 (54
15 U.S.C. 320301 note), is abolished and all land or interests
16 in land therein are incorporated into, and shall be consid-
17 ered to be part of, the Historical Park.

18 (c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any unobligated
19 funds available for purposes of the Fort Monroe National
20 Monument shall be available for purposes of the Historical
21 Park.

22 (d) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, regula-
23 tion, document, record, map, or other paper of the United
24 States to Fort Monroe National Monument shall be

1 deemed to be a reference to “Fort Monroe National His-
2 torical Park”.

3 **SEC. 4. BOUNDARY; ACQUISITION OF LAND.**

4 (a) BOUNDARY.—The boundary of the Historical
5 Park shall be as generally depicted on the Map.

6 (b) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Map shall be on file
7 and available for public inspection in the appropriate of-
8 fices of the National Park Service.

9 (c) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—The Secretary may ac-
10 quire land, including interests in land, within the bound-
11 aries of the Historical Park by donation, transfer, ex-
12 change, or purchase from a willing seller using donated
13 or appropriated funds.

14 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer
16 the Historical Park in accordance with—

17 (1) this Act; and

18 (2) the laws generally applicable to units of the
19 National Park System, including—

20 (A) section 100101(a), chapter 1003, and
21 sections 100751(a), 100752, 100753 and
22 102101 of title 54, United States Code; and

23 (B) chapter 3201 of title 54, United States
24 Code.

1 (b) FEDERAL, COMMONWEALTH, AND LOCAL JURIS-
2 DICTION.—

3 (1) FEDERAL AUTHORITY.—Except as other-
4 wise provided in this Act, nothing shall enlarge, di-
5 minish or modify any authority of the United States
6 to carry out Federal laws and regulations on Federal
7 land located within the boundary of the Historical
8 Park.

9 (2) COMMONWEALTH AUTHORITY.—Nothing in
10 this Act enlarges, diminishes, or modifies any au-
11 thority of the Commonwealth, or any political sub-
12 division of the Commonwealth—

13 (A) to exercise civil and criminal jurisdic-
14 tion unless an agreement for concurrent juris-
15 diction is executed and modifies Commonwealth
16 or local government jurisdiction in any way; or

17 (B) to carry out Commonwealth laws, reg-
18 ulations and rules on non-Federal land located
19 within the boundary of the Historical Park.

20 (c) NO NET LOSS OF COMMONWEALTH OWNED
21 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES.—In the event of loss or
22 authorized demolition of buildings or structures within the
23 Fort Monroe National Historic Landmark District, re-
24 placement of the square footage from such loss or demoli-
25 tion shall be permitted provided that such construction

1 complies with the Secretary's Standards for the Treat-
 2 ment of Historic Properties, and section 306108 of title
 3 54, United States Code (formerly section 106 of the Na-
 4 tional Historic Preservation Act), as applicable.

5 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF EX-OFFICIO APPOINT-
 6 MENTS.—The Superintendent of the Historical Park is au-
 7 thorized to serve as an ex-officio member of such boards
 8 or committees affecting Fort Monroe that the Secretary
 9 considers beneficial to the preservation of Historical Park
 10 resources and which further the interpretive or edu-
 11 cational purposes of the Historical Park.

12 (e) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
 13 may enter into cooperative agreements with the Common-
 14 wealth or other public or private entities to identify, inter-
 15 pret, and provide financial and technical assistance for the
 16 preservation of non-Federal resources within the boundary
 17 of the Historical Park and outside of the boundary in close
 18 proximity to the Historical Park provided that—

19 (1) any cooperative agreement entered into to
 20 provide assistance to non-Federal land shall provide
 21 for reasonable public access to the non-Federal land;

22 (2) no changes or alterations shall be made to
 23 the exterior of the properties except by mutual
 24 agreement of the other parties to the agreements;
 25 and

1 (3) the Federal share of the total cost of any
2 activity carried out under the agreement shall be not
3 more than 50 percent, with in-kind contributions or
4 goods or services fairly valued authorized, as appropriate,
5 for the non-Federal share.

6 (f) ADAPTIVE REUSE.—Nothing in this Act shall be
7 construed to inhibit the Commonwealth from providing for
8 the adaptive reuse of the interior of any non-federally
9 owned historic resource in accordance with the Secretary's
10 Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

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