

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2801

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the Canterbury Shaker Village National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the Canterbury Shaker Village 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Canterbury Shaker Vil-
5 lage National Heritage Area Study Authorization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) Canterbury Shaker Village, which was es-
2 tablished in 1792, has played a prominent role in
3 the history of the United Society of Believers, com-
4 monly known as the “Shakers”, which was the long-
5 est-lived and most successful of the several utopian
6 experiments of the 19th century in the United
7 States;

8 (2) the advent and growth of the Shaker move-
9 ment was a significant component of a trans-
10 formational religious and social fervor in the United
11 States—

12 (A) which is known as the “Second Great
13 Awakening”; and

14 (B) that led to the development of a num-
15 ber of churches and sects that diversified and
16 enriched the society of the United States;

17 (3) the Shakers—

18 (A) were a communal and celibate religious
19 group that saw work, music, and dance as wor-
20 ship;

21 (B) practiced equality of the sexes, paci-
22 fism, and technological invention; and

23 (C) by withdrawing from the larger society,
24 developed a refined and aesthetically significant
25 expression of architecture, decorative arts, and

1 utilitarian objects that are now known and
2 studied throughout the world;

3 (4) Canterbury Shaker Village played an in-
4 creasingly important role in the Shaker movement,
5 eventually becoming the home of the Shaker Central
6 Ministry, which supervised the consolidation at Can-
7 terbury Shaker Village of other Shaker settlements
8 as the other settlements declined and closed during
9 the 20th century, preserving and distilling remnants
10 of the societies at a single site;

11 (5) Canterbury Shaker Village was the only
12 Shaker community to deliberately transform the
13 community from a religious society to a nonprofit
14 museum, Canterbury Shaker Village, Inc., to which,
15 in 1969, Canterbury Shaker Village conveyed the
16 land, buildings, furnishings, and archives of Canter-
17 bury Shaker Village as an intact legacy;

18 (6) in 1992, in recognition of the historical sig-
19 nificance and physical integrity of Canterbury Shak-
20 er Village, Canterbury Shaker Village was des-
21 ignated as a National Historic Landmark;

22 (7) as of the date of enactment of this Act,
23 Canterbury Shaker Village includes—

24 (A) approximately 700 acres of land;

25 (B) 25 buildings; and

1 (C) extensive and verified archaeological
 2 resources, gardens, orchards, a community cem-
 3 etery, miles of roadways, stone culverts and
 4 walls, and a chain of manmade ponds that have
 5 powered a range of industries, including some
 6 industries that derived from the inventions of
 7 the Shakers; and

8 (8) Canterbury Shaker Village has been the
 9 beneficiary of years of concentrated surveying, map-
 10 ping, photographic recordation, archaeological inves-
 11 tigation, and documentary research and writing
 12 that—

13 (A) reflect a fascination on the part of the
 14 outside world with Canterbury Shaker Village
 15 that began in the early 1800s;

16 (B) are scholarly and popular in nature;
 17 and

18 (C) have defined a cultural landscape and
 19 a historical legacy that is of national signifi-
 20 cance and high educational and aesthetic value
 21 to the people of the United States.

22 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

24 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 25 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
2 of New Hampshire.

3 (3) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”
4 means the geographic boundaries of the Canterbury
5 Shaker Village National Historic Landmark located
6 in Merrimack County, New Hampshire.

7 **SEC. 4. CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE NATIONAL HERIT-**
8 **AGE AREA STUDY.**

9 The Secretary, in consultation with State and local
10 historic preservation officers, State and local historical so-
11 cieties, State and local tourism offices, and other appro-
12 priate organizations and governmental agencies and in ac-
13 cordance with section 120103(a) of title 54, United States
14 Code, shall conduct a study to assess the suitability and
15 feasibility of designating the study area as a National
16 Heritage Area, to be known as the “Canterbury Shaker
17 Village National Heritage Area”.

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