

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 432

To establish the Fort Ontario Holocaust Refugee Shelter National Historical Park in the State of New York as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 5, 2025

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Fort Ontario Holocaust Refugee Shelter National Historical Park in the State of New York as a unit of the National Park 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 “Fort Ontario Holo-
5 caust Refugee Shelter National Historical Park Establish-
6 ment Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

1 (1) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-
 2 titled “Fort Ontario Holocaust Refugee Shelter Na-
 3 tional Historical Park Proposed Boundary”, num-
 4 bered 962/194,681, and dated September 2024.

5 (2) NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.—The term
 6 “National Historical Park” means the Fort Ontario
 7 Holocaust Refugee Shelter National Historical Park
 8 established by section 3(a)(1).

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

11 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
 12 of New York.

13 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT ONTARIO HOLOCAUST**
 14 **REFUGEE SHELTER NATIONAL HISTORICAL**
 15 **PARK.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3),
 18 there is established in the State as a unit of the Na-
 19 tional Park System the Fort Ontario Holocaust Ref-
 20 ugee Shelter National Historical Park.

21 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the National
 22 Historical Park is to preserve, protect, and interpret
 23 for the benefit of present and future generations re-
 24 sources associated with the stories of the 982 refu-
 25 gees from World War II who were housed at Fort

1 Ontario from August of 1944 until February of
2 1946.

3 (3) CONDITIONS OF ESTABLISHMENT.—

4 (A) DETERMINATION BY THE SEC-
5 RETARY.—The National Historical Park shall
6 not be established until the date on which the
7 Secretary determines that a sufficient quantity
8 of land or interests in land has been acquired
9 from land identified as “Proposed Boundary”
10 on the map to constitute a manageable park
11 unit.

12 (B) NOTICE.—Not later than 30 days
13 after the date on which the Secretary makes a
14 determination under subparagraph (A), the
15 Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register
16 notice of the establishment of the National His-
17 torical Park.

18 (4) MAP.—The map shall be on file and avail-
19 able for public inspection in the appropriate offices
20 of the National Park Service.

21 (5) BOUNDARY.—The boundary of the National
22 Historical Park shall include any land or interests in
23 land acquired by the Secretary under this section.

24 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall admin-
2 ister the National Historical Park in accordance
3 with—

4 (A) this section; and

5 (B) the laws generally applicable to units
6 of the National Park System, including—

7 (i) sections 100101(a), 100751(a),
8 100752, 100753, and 102101 of title 54,
9 United States Code; and

10 (ii) chapters 1003 and 3201 of title
11 54, United States Code.

12 (2) AGREEMENTS.—

13 (A) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In ac-
14 cordance with section 101702 of title 54,
15 United States Code, the Secretary may enter
16 into cooperative agreements with the State or
17 other public and private entities to provide in-
18 terpretive and educational services within the
19 National Historical Park.

20 (B) INTERPRETATION AND RESTORATION
21 AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into
22 agreements to identify, interpret, and restore
23 nationally significant historic or cultural re-
24 sources located on non-Federal land within the

boundary of, or in close proximity to, the National Historical Park.

(C) PUBLIC ACCESS.—Any cooperative agreement entered into under subparagraph (B) to provide assistance to non-Federal land shall provide for reasonable public access to the non-Federal land.

(3) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary may acquire land and interests in land located within the boundary of the National Historical Park by—

(i) donation;

(ii) purchase with donated or appropriated funds; or

(iii) exchange.

(B) LIMITATION.—Any land owned by the State or a political subdivision of the State may be acquired for inclusion in the National Historical Park only by donation.

(4) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the State, shall complete a general

1 management plan for the National Historical Park
2 in accordance with—

3 (A) section 100502 of title 54, United
4 States Code; and

5 (B) any other applicable laws.

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