

# Calendar No. 1232

73D CONGRESS  
2d Session

SENATE

REPORT  
No. 1156

## TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT IN BIBB COUNTY, GA.

MAY 10 (calendar day, MAY 24), 1934.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WAGNER, from the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 7653]

The Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, to whom was referred the act (H.R. 7653) to authorize the establishment of the Ocmulgee National Monument in Bibb County, Ga., having considered same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the act do pass without amendment.

The amendments suggested by the Secretary of the Interior were incorporated in the act by the House Committee on the Public Lands, and facts concerning the proposed legislation are set forth in the report of that committee (H.Rept. 1657, 73d Cong., 2d sess.), as follows:

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 7653) to establish the Ocmulgee National Park in Bibb County, Ga., after careful consideration of same, reported favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass the House with the following amendments, to wit:

That the title be changed to: "A bill to authorize the establishment of the Ocmulgee National Monument in Bibb County, Georgia."

Strike out all of section 1 and substitute the following:

"That when title to lands commonly known as the 'Old Ocmulgee Fields', upon which certain Indian mounds of great historical importance are located, comprising approximately two thousand acres, in and around the city of Macon, county of Bibb, State of Georgia, as shall be designated by the Secretary of the Interior, in the exercise of his judgment and discretion as necessary for national-monument purposes, shall have been vested in the United States said area shall be set aside as a national monument, by proclamation of the President and shall be known as the 'Ocmulgee National Monument': *Provided*, That the United States shall not purchase by appropriation of public moneys any lands within the aforesaid area, but such lands shall be secured by the United States only by public or private donation."

Insert a new section as follows:

"SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to accept donations of land, interests in land, buildings, structures, and other property, within the boundaries of said national monument as determined and fixed hereunder and donations of funds for the purchase and/or maintenance thereof, the title and evidence of title to lands acquired to be satisfactory to the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided*, That he may acquire on behalf of the United States under any donated funds by purchase when purchasable at prices deemed by him reasonable, otherwise by condemnation under the provisions of the Act of August 1, 1888, such tracts of land within the said national monument as may be necessary for the completion thereof."

In present section 2, page 2, line 8, change the word "Park" to "Monument".  
 Renumber present section 2 as section 3.

Facts concerning the proposed legislation are set forth in the favorable letter of the Secretary of the Interior under date of April 16, 1934, which is hereinbelow set out in full and made a part of this report.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT,  
 Washington, April 16, 1934.

Hon. RENÉ L. DEROUEN,  
*Chairman Committee on Public Lands, House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I have received your letter of February 8, enclosing copy of H.R. 7653, entitled "A bill to establish the Ocmulgee National Park in Bibb County, Ga.," and requesting a report thereon.

Due to the rapid development of the Nation, the remains of the prehistoric life are fast disappearing. In the interests of science and history it is of the utmost importance that some few typical areas be preserved for all time to come as places for the study of the early antecedents of human life on the North American Continent. The National Government through the passage of the act for the preservation of American antiquities, approved June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225), and that creating the Mesa Verde National Park, Colo., approved June 29, 1906 (34 Stat. 616), where some of the outstanding examples of Southwestern archeology are to be found, has demonstrated the importance of the preservation of such prehistoric remains.

In the case of the Indian mounds in the Ocmulgee field, it is the opinion of noted archeologists that this group comprises one of the most important centers of archeology east of the Appalachian Mountains. It should be added that several scientists of the Smithsonian Institution have recently studied this group of mounds and that Institution endorses the project for Federal preservation.

While I am in favor of preservation by the United States of the Ocmulgee area, it would seem that it is of distinct national-monument character, being similar to lands set apart in Western States for scientific purposes, and therefore should be established in that status rather than as a national park, as contemplated by this proposed legislation.

Section 1 of the bill provides for an authorization for the appropriation of Federal funds for the purchase of approximately 2,000 acres of land at a cost of not to exceed \$25 per acre. I am not in favor of authorizing the appropriation of Federal funds for the acquisition of lands as contemplated by this section and believe if the necessary area for the preservation of these prehistorical mounds is to be administered by the Federal Government that the lands should be secured by public or private donation. In view of the above it is recommended that the bill be amended as follows:

Change the title to: "A bill to authorize the establishment of the Ocmulgee National Mounment in Bibb County, Georgia."

Eliminate all of section 1 and substitute the following:

"That when title to lands commonly known as the 'Old Ocmulgee Fields', upon which certain Indian mounds of great historical importance are located, comprising approximately two thousand acres, in and around the City of Macon, County of Bibb, State of Georgia, as shall be designated by the Secretary of the Interior, in the exercise of his judgment and discretion as necessary for national-monument purposes, shall have been vested in the United States; said area shall be set aside as a national monument, by proclamation of the President, and shall be known as the 'Ocmulgee National Monument': *Provided*, That the United States shall not purchase by appropriation of public moneys any lands within the aforesaid area, but such lands shall be secured by the United States only by public or private donation."

Page 2, line 8, change the word "Park" to "Monument".

This proposed legislation is identical with that covered by S. 2679, on which a separate report as above has been submitted, and I am advised by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget that if this proposed legislation is amended as indicated above the same will not be in conflict with the financial program of the President.

I recommend that H.R. 7653, if amended as indicated above, be given favorable consideration by the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD L. ICKES,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*