

Public Law 100-187  
100th Congress

An Act

To amend the National Trails System Act to provide for a study of the De Soto Trail, and for other purposes.

Dec. 11, 1987  
[S. 1297]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

De Soto National  
Trail Study Act  
of 1987.  
16 USC 1241  
note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "De Soto National Trail Study Act of 1987".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

- (1) Hernando de Soto landed in the vicinity of Tampa Bay on May 30, 1539;
- (2) de Soto then led his expedition of approximately 600 through the States of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas;
- (3) de Soto died on the banks of the Mississippi River in 1542;
- (4) the survivors of de Soto's expedition went on to Texas, then back through Arkansas, and into Louisiana in search of a route to Mexico;
- (5) the de Soto expedition represented the first large group of Europeans to explore so deeply into the Southeastern region;
- (6) archeologists have recently uncovered, in Tallahassee, Florida, what may have been de Soto's first winter camp;
- (7) the State of Florida has completed identification and marking of close to three-fourths of de Soto's trail in that State; and
- (8) several other States are in the process of identifying and marking de Soto's trail within their borders.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF TRAIL.

Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (82 Stat. 919; 16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding the following new paragraph at the end thereof:

"(31) De Soto Trail, the approximate route taken by the expedition of the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto in 1539, extending through portions of the States of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, to the area of Little Rock, Arkansas, on to Texas and Louisiana, and any other States which may have been crossed

State listing.

by the expedition. The study under this paragraph shall be prepared in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, except that it shall be completed and submitted to the Congress with recommendations as to the trail's suitability for designation not later than one calendar year after the date of enactment of this paragraph."

Approved December 11, 1987.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 1297:

- HOUSE REPORTS: No. 100-462 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
- SENATE REPORTS: No. 100-177 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
- CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 133 (1987):
  - Oct. 1, considered and passed Senate.
  - Dec. 1, considered and passed House.