

Public Law 107-256
107th Congress

An Act

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in the State of New York, and for other purposes.

Oct. 29, 2002

[S. 1227]

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

Niagara Falls
National
Heritage Area
Study Act.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Study Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

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

(2) **STUDY AREA.**—The term “study area” means lands in Niagara County, New York, along and in the vicinity of the Niagara River.

SEC. 3. NIAGARA FALLS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing a heritage area in the State of New York to be known as the “Niagara Falls National Heritage Area”.

(b) **ANALYSES AND DOCUMENTATION.**—The study shall include analysis and documentation of whether the study area—

(1) contains an assemblage of natural, historical, scenic, and cultural resources that represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States that—

(A) are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continued use; and

(B) would best be managed—

(i) through partnerships among public and private entities; and

(ii) by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;

(2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the United States;

(3) provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historical, scenic, or cultural features;

(4) provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities;

(5) contains resources important to the identified theme of the study area that retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(6) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and State and local governments that—

(A) are involved in planning a national heritage area;

(B) have developed a conceptual financial plan for a national heritage area that outlines the roles for all participants, including the Federal Government; and

(C) have demonstrated support for the concept of a national heritage area;

(7) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and State and local governments to develop a national heritage area consistent with continued State and local economic activity; and

(8) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—In conducting the study, the Secretary shall consult with—

(1) State and local agencies; and

(2) interested organizations within the study area.

Deadline.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study under subsection (a).

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$300,000 to carry out this Act.

Approved October 29, 2002.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 1227:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 107-668 (Comm. on Resources).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 107-179 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 148 (2002):

Aug. 1, considered and passed Senate.

Oct. 16, considered and passed House.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 38 (2002):

Oct. 30, Presidential statement.