

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1958

To establish the Fort Presque Isle National Historic Site in the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26, 1999

Mr. ENGLISH (for himself, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. WELLER, and Mr. HOLDEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To establish the Fort Presque Isle National Historic Site
in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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. FORT PRESQUE ISLE NATIONAL HISTORIC**
4 **SITE, PENNSYLVANIA.**

5 (a) FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.—

6 (1) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the fol-
7 lowing:

8 (A) Fort Presque Isle was a frontier out-
9 post located on Garrison Hill in the area of
10 present-day Erie, Pennsylvania, which was the

1 site of the American installations built in 1795
2 and 1796 and in the War of 1812.

3 (B) General Anthony Wayne was a Revolu-
4 tionary War hero who served under General
5 George Washington and, at one point, was com-
6 manding general of the United States Army.
7 He first arrived in the area of Presque Isle in
8 1786.

9 (C) Legend has it that General Wayne was
10 nicknamed “Mad” by his troops, not for being
11 rash or foolish, but for his leadership and brav-
12 ery on and off the battlefield.

13 (D) The original blockhouse of Fort
14 Presque Isle was built in 1795 by 200 Federal
15 troops from General Wayne’s army, under the
16 direction of Captain John Grubb. It was the
17 first blockhouse used as part of a defensive sys-
18 tem established to counter Native American
19 uprisings. It was also used during the War of
20 1812.

21 (E) General Wayne was stricken ill at Fort
22 Presque Isle and died there in 1796. At his re-
23 quest, his body was buried under the flagpole of
24 the northwest blockhouse of the fort.

1 (F) The original blockhouse of Fort
2 Presque Isle burned in 1852, and the existing
3 structure was built by the Commonwealth of
4 Pennsylvania in 1880 as a memorial to General
5 Wayne.

6 (G) The Pennsylvania Historical and Mu-
7 seum Commission has recognized the recon-
8 structed blockhouse as eligible for placement on
9 the National Register of Historic Places.

10 (2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section
11 are the following:

12 (A) To provide for reconstruction of the
13 frontier fort at Presque Isle for the benefit, in-
14 spiration, and education of the people of the
15 United States.

16 (B) To preserve the original grave site of
17 General “Mad” Anthony Wayne at Fort
18 Presque Isle.

19 (C) To broaden understanding of the his-
20 torical significance of Fort Presque Isle.

21 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term “historic site”
23 means the Fort Presque Isle National Historic Site
24 established by subsection (c).

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

3 (c) ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT PRESQUE ISLE NA-
4 TIONAL HISTORIC SITE.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established as
6 a unit of the National Park System the Fort
7 Presque Isle National Historic Site in Erie, Pennsylv-
8 vania.

9 (2) DESCRIPTION.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The historic site shall
11 consist of land and improvements comprising
12 the historic location of Fort Presque Isle, in-
13 cluding the existing blockhouse replica at that
14 location, as depicted on a map entitled
15 “_____”, numbered _____ and dated
16 _____, comprising approximately _____
17 acres.

18 (B) MAP AND BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.—
19 The map referred to in subparagraph (A) and
20 accompanying boundary description shall be on
21 file and available for public inspection in the of-
22 fice of the Director of the National Park Serv-
23 ice and any other office of the National Park
24 Service that the Secretary determines to be an

1 appropriate location for filing the map and
2 boundary description.

3 (d) ADMINISTRATION OF THE HISTORIC SITE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall admin-
5 ister the historic site in accordance with this section
6 and the provisions of law generally applicable to
7 units of the National Park System, including the Act
8 of August 25, 1916 (commonly known as the Na-
9 tional Park Service Organic Act; 16 U.S.C. 1 et
10 seq.), and the Act of August 21, 1935 (commonly
11 known as the Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiq-
12 uities Act; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

13 (2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—To further
14 the purposes of this section, the Secretary may enter
15 into a cooperative agreement with any interested in-
16 dividual, public or private agency, organization, or
17 institution.

18 (3) TECHNICAL AND PRESERVATION ASSIST-
19 ANCE.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
21 provide to any eligible person described in sub-
22 paragraph (B) technical assistance for the pres-
23 ervation of historic structures of, the mainte-
24 nance of the cultural landscape of, and local
25 preservation planning for, the historic site.

1 (B) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—The eligible per-
2 sons described in this subparagraph are—

3 (i) an owner of real property within
4 the boundary of the historic site, as de-
5 scribed in subsection (c)(2); and

6 (ii) any interested individual, agency,
7 organization, or institution that has en-
8 tered into an agreement with the Secretary
9 pursuant to paragraph (2) of this sub-
10 section.

11 (e) ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY—The Sec-
12 retary may acquire by donation, exchange, or purchase
13 with funds made available by donation or appropriation,
14 such lands or interests in lands as may be necessary to
15 allow for the interpretation, preservation, or restoration
16 of the historic site.

17 (f) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the last day
19 of the third full fiscal year beginning after the date
20 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, in con-
21 sultation with the officials described in paragraph
22 (2), prepare a general management plan for the his-
23 toric site.

24 (2) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the general
25 management plan, the Secretary shall consult with

1 an appropriate official of each appropriate political
2 subdivisions of the State of Pennsylvania that have
3 jurisdiction over all or a portion of the historic site.

4 (3) SUBMISSION OF PLAN TO CONGRESS.—

5 Upon the completion of the general management
6 plan, the Secretary shall submit a copy of the plan
7 to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
8 of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of
9 the House of Representatives.

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