

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2832

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to inventory, evaluate, document, and assist efforts to restore and preserve surviving United States Life-Saving Service stations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 9, 1999

Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. LOBIONDO) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to inventory, evaluate, document, and assist efforts to restore and preserve surviving United States Life-Saving Service stations.

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 “United States Life-
5 Saving Service Heritage Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The United States has a long tradition of
2 heroic efforts to rescue those in peril on the sea.

3 (2) Legislation providing appropriations to the
4 Secretary of the Treasury for “surf boats, rockets,
5 carronades, and other necessary apparatus for the
6 better preservation of life and property from ship-
7 wrecks on the coast of New Jersey, between Sandy
8 Hook and Little Egg Harbor” was approved August
9 14, 1848 (9 Stat. 322), and was subsequently ex-
10 tended to support volunteer lifesaving efforts on the
11 coast of New Jersey between Little Egg Harbor and
12 Cape May, and in other States and territories.

13 (3) Legislation providing appropriations to the
14 Secretary of the Treasury “for the purpose of more
15 effectively securing life and property on the coast of
16 New Jersey and Long Island . . . and to employ crews
17 of experienced surfmen at such stations” was ap-
18 proved April 20, 1871 (17 Stat. 12).

19 (4) The Life-Saving Service was reorganized by
20 the Congress by enactment of the Act entitled “An
21 Act to organize the Life-Saving-Service”, approved
22 June 18, 1878 (chapter 265; 20 Stat. 163).

23 (5) America’s lifesaving stations and boats were
24 staffed by brave volunteer and professional life-

1 savers, who risked life and limb to rescue ship-
2 wrecked passengers and crews.

3 (6) Many surviving Life-Saving Service stations
4 are of rare architectural significance, yet these his-
5 toric stations are threatened by harsh coastal envi-
6 ronments, rapid economic development in the coastal
7 zone, neglect, and lack of resources for their preser-
8 vation.

9 (7) The heroic actions of Life-Saving Service
10 personnel deserve greater recognition, and their con-
11 tributions to America's maritime and architectural
12 history should be celebrated through a comprehen-
13 sive preservation program and greater opportunities
14 for the public's education about the heritage of the
15 Life-Saving Service and related private and public
16 organizations.

17 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-
18 ize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program
19 to inventory, evaluate, document, and assist in efforts to
20 restore and preserve surviving lifesaving stations and
21 other structures and artifacts dedicated to our forefathers'
22 lifesaving efforts.

1 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES LIFE-SAVING SERVICE STATION**
2 **PRESERVATION PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior,
4 through the National Maritime Initiative of the National
5 Park Service, shall establish a program in accordance with
6 this section to inventory, evaluate, document, and assist
7 efforts to restore and preserve surviving United States
8 Life-Saving Service stations.

9 (b) INVENTORY, DOCUMENTATION, AND EVALUA-
10 TION.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the U.S. Life-
11 Saving Service Heritage Association, shall—

12 (1) survey coastal regions of the United States
13 to identify and prepare an inventory of surviving his-
14 toric lifesaving stations, boats, and other significant
15 lifesaving equipment;

16 (2) document the designs of significant existing
17 structures and lifesaving boats for inclusion in the
18 Historic American Building Survey/Historic Amer-
19 ican Engineering Record Collection in the Library of
20 Congress; and

21 (3) evaluate historic lifesaving stations,
22 including—

23 (A) assessing the historic significance, in-
24 tegrity, and condition of surviving historic life-
25 saving stations;

(B) making recommendations for outstanding examples of historic lifesaving stations that should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or designated as National Historic Landmarks; and

(C) making recommendations for outstanding examples of lifesaving boats to be included in the Historic American Engineering Record Collection.

(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, RESEARCH AIDS, AND OTHER INFORMATION.—
The Secretary shall—

(1) serve as a clearinghouse of information for persons interested in restoring and preserving historic lifesaving stations, their boats, and related lifesaving equipment; and

(2) make available to the public, including through the Internet, educational materials, research aids, guides, bibliographies, and other information regarding the Life-Saving Service, Revenue Cutter Service, and related organizations that provided humanitarian assistance to shipwrecked mariners and their passengers, including—

(A) information on the history and development of the Life-Saving Service, the Revenue

1 Cutter Service, predecessor private and State
2 lifesaving organizations such as the Humane
3 Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
4 and early Coast Guard lifesaving and lifeboat
5 stations;

6 (B) technical descriptions of lifesaving
7 boats, line-guns, life cars, and beachcarts;

8 (C) the inventory, documentation, and
9 evaluation prepared under subsection (b);

10 (D) guidance and technical assistance in
11 the listing of historic lifesaving and lifeboat sta-
12 tions on the National Register of Historic
13 Places, or their designation as National His-
14 toric Landmarks; and

15 (E) guidance and technical assistance in
16 the listing of historic lifesaving boats in the
17 Historic American Engineering Record Collec-
18 tion.

19 (d) GRANTS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to
21 the availability of appropriations, shall make grants
22 to coordinate and assist in the restoration and pres-
23 ervation of historic lifesaving stations, historic life-
24 saving boats, and other significant lifesaving arti-
25 facts.

1 (2) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of the
2 cost of an activity carried out with financial assist-
3 ance under this subsection shall not exceed 75 per-
4 cent of the total cost of the activity.

5 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) HISTORIC LIFESAVING STATION.—The term
7 “historic lifesaving station” means any land, struc-
8 ture, equipment, or other physical artifact or facility
9 formerly under the jurisdiction or control of the
10 Life-Saving Service or any earlier private or State
11 organizations, including lifesaving and lifeboat sta-
12 tions, sailors’ refuges, shipwreck survivors’ cache
13 sites, boats, and beachcarts.

14 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Na-
16 tional Maritime Initiative of the National Park Serv-
17 ice.

18 (3) U.S. LIFE-SAVING SERVICE HERITAGE ASSO-
19 CIATION.—The term “U.S. Life-Saving Service Her-
20 itage Association” means the national nonprofit edu-
21 cational organization by that name established under
22 the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for
23 the purposes and objectives of meeting and pre-
24 serving America’s lifesaving heritage.

1 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary—

3 (1) for use in making grants under subsection
4 (d), \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2000
5 through 2004; and

6 (2) for carrying out the other provisions of this
7 section \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2000
8 through 2004.

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