

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3497

To authorize a study on the feasibility of preserving certain Civil War battlefields along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail and of establishing a Civil Rights Trail in the State of Mississippi.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. SHOWS, and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To authorize a study on the feasibility of preserving certain Civil War battlefields along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail and of establishing a Civil Rights Trail in the State of Mississippi.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **TITLE I—VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN**
4 **TRAIL BATTLEFIELDS PRES-**
5 **ERVATION**

6 **SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.**

7 This title may be cited as the “Vicksburg Campaign
8 Trail Battlefields Preservation Act of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 102. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) there are situated along the Vicksburg
4 Campaign Trail in the States of Mississippi, Lou-
5 isiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee the sites of several
6 key Civil War battles;

7 (2) the battlefields along the Vicksburg Cam-
8 paign Trail are collectively of national significance in
9 the history of the Civil War; and

10 (3) the preservation of those battlefields would
11 vitally contribute to the understanding of the herit-
12 age of the United States.

13 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this title is to author-
14 ize a feasibility study to determine what measures should
15 be taken to preserve certain Civil War battlefields along
16 the Vicksburg Campaign Trail.

17 **SEC. 103. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this title:

19 (1) CAMPAIGN TRAIL STATE.—The term “Cam-
20 paign Trail State” means each of the States of Mis-
21 sissippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee, in-
22 cluding political subdivisions of those States.

23 (2) CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Civil War
25 battlefields” means the land and interests in
26 land that is the site of a Civil War battlefield,

1 including structures on or adjacent to the land,
2 as generally depicted on the Map.

3 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “Civil War
4 battlefields” includes—

5 (i) the battlefields at Helena and Ar-
6 kansas Post, Arkansas;

7 (ii) Goodrich’s Landing near Transyl-
8 vania, and sites in and around Lake Provi-
9 dence, East Carroll Parish, Louisiana;

10 (iii) the battlefield at Milliken’s Bend,
11 Madison Parish, Louisiana;

12 (iv) the route of Grant’s march
13 through Louisiana from Milliken’s Bend to
14 Hard Times, Madison and Tensas Par-
15 ishes, Louisiana;

16 (v) the Winter Quarters at Tensas
17 Parish, Louisiana;

18 (vi) Grant’s landing site at
19 Bruinsburg, and the route of Grant’s
20 march from Bruinsburg to Vicksburg, Clai-
21 borne, Hinds, and Warren Counties, Mis-
22 sissippi;

23 (vii) the battlefield at Port Gibson (in-
24 cluding Shaifer House, Bethel Church, and

1 the ruins of Windsor), Claiborne County,
2 Mississippi;

3 (viii) the battlefield at Grand Gulf,
4 Claiborne County, Mississippi;

5 (ix) the battlefield at Raymond (in-
6 cluding Waverly, (the Peyton House)),
7 Hinds County, Mississippi;

8 (x) the battlefield at Jackson, Hinds
9 County, Mississippi;

10 (xi) the Union siege lines around
11 Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi;

12 (xii) the battlefield at Champion Hill
13 (including Coker House), Hinds County,
14 Mississippi;

15 (xiii) the battlefield at Big Black
16 River Bridge, Hinds and Warren Counties,
17 Mississippi;

18 (xiv) the Union fortifications at
19 Haynes Bluff, Confederate fortifications at
20 Snyder's Bluff, and remnants of Federal
21 exterior lines, Warren County, Mississippi;

22 (xv) the battlefield at Chickasaw
23 Bayou, Warren County, Mississippi;

24 (xvi) Pemberton's Headquarters at
25 Warren County, Mississippi;

1 (xvii) the site of actions taken in the
2 Mississippi Delta and Confederate for-
3 tifications near Grenada, Grenada County,
4 Mississippi;

5 (xviii) the site of the start of
6 Greirson's Raid and other related sites,
7 LaGrange, Tennessee; and

8 (xix) any other sites considered appro-
9 priate by the Secretary.

10 (3) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-
11 titled “Vicksburg Campaign Trail National Battle-
12 fields”, numbered _____, and dated _____.

13 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
15 rector of the National Park Service.

16 **SEC. 104. FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
18 date that funds are made available to carry out this title,
19 the Secretary shall complete a feasibility study to deter-
20 mine what measures should be taken to preserve Civil War
21 battlefields.

22 (b) COMPONENTS.—In completing the study, the Sec-
23 retary shall—

24 (1) enter into contracts with entities to use ad-
25 vanced technology such as remote sensing, river

1 modeling, and flow analysis to determine which
2 property included in the Civil War battlefields
3 should be preserved, restored, managed, maintained,
4 or acquired due to the national historical signifi-
5 cance of the property;

6 (2) evaluate options for the establishment of a
7 management entity for the Civil War battlefields
8 consisting of a unit of government or a private non-
9 profit organization that—

10 (A) administers and manages the Civil
11 War battlefields; and

12 (B) possesses the legal authority to—

13 (i) receive Federal funds and funds
14 from other units of government or other
15 organizations for use in managing the Civil
16 War battlefields;

17 (ii) disburse Federal funds to other
18 units of government or other nonprofit or-
19 ganizations for use in managing the Civil
20 War battlefields;

21 (iii) enter into agreements with the
22 Federal government, State governments, or
23 other units of government and nonprofit
24 organizations; and

1 (iv) acquire land or interests in land
2 by gift or devise, by purchase from a will-
3 ing seller using donated or appropriated
4 funds, or by donation;

5 (3) make recommendations to the Campaign
6 Trail States for the management, preservation, and
7 interpretation of the natural, cultural, and historical
8 resources of the Civil War battlefields;

9 (4) identify appropriate partnerships among
10 Federal, State, and local governments, regional enti-
11 ties, and the private sector, including nonprofit orga-
12 nizations and the organization known as “Friends of
13 the Vicksburg Campaign and Historic Trail”, in fur-
14 therance of the purposes of this title; and

15 (5) recommend methods of ensuring continued
16 local involvement and participation in the manage-
17 ment, protection, and development of the Civil War
18 battlefields.

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
20 of completion of the study under this section, the Sec-
21 retary shall submit a report describing the findings of the
22 study to—

23 (1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
24 sources of the Senate; and

1 (2) the Committee on Resources of the House
2 of Representatives.

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title
5 \$1,500,000.

6 **TITLE II—MISSISSIPPI CIVIL**
7 **RIGHTS TRAIL STUDY**

8 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

9 This title may be cited as the “Mississippi Civil
10 Rights Trail Study Act of 1999”.

11 **SEC. 202. AUTHORIZATION OF STUDY.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
13 date that funds are made available to carry out this title,
14 the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter in this title re-
15 ferred to as the “Secretary”) shall complete a study identi-
16 fying sites within the boundaries of the State of Mis-
17 sissippi that are significant to the modern civil rights
18 movement for the purpose of historical interpretation and
19 recognition. The study shall include an evaluation of the
20 feasibility of establishing a Civil Rights Trail by linking
21 the identified sites for interpretive purposes.

22 (b) CRITERIA; EMPHASIS.—In conducting the study
23 pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

24 (1) use the criteria for the study of areas for
25 potential inclusion in the National Park System con-

1 tained in section 8 of Public Law 91–383 (commonly
2 known as the National Park System General Au-
3 thorities Act); and

4 (2) place special emphasis on studying the sites
5 on the Mississippi delta and within the Mississippi
6 counties of Hinds, Lauderdale, Neshoba, Amite,
7 Adams, Harrison, Jackson, Marshall, Lafayette,
8 Clay, Lowndess, and Noxubee.

9 **SEC. 203. REPORT.**

10 Not later than 60 days after the date of completion
11 of the study under this section, the Secretary shall submit
12 to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of
13 the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House
14 of Representatives a report on the findings, conclusions,
15 and recommendations of the study.

16 **SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
18 this title \$2,000,000.

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