

Calendar No. 586

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**S. 2388****[Report No. 107-269]**

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to study certain sites in the historic district of Beaufort, South Carolina, relating to the Reconstruction Era.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 2002

Mr. HOLLINGS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

SEPTEMBER 11, 2002

Reported by Mr. BINGAMAN, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to study certain sites in the historic district of Beaufort, South Carolina, relating to the Reconstruction Era.

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 “National Reconstruc-
5 tion Study Area Act of 2002”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) the Reconstruction Era, during which Con-
4 gress adopted the 13th amendment ending slavery,
5 the 14th amendment guaranteeing civil rights, and
6 the 15th amendment guaranteeing voting rights to
7 all citizens of the United States, saw the occurrence
8 of a transforming series of events in the history of
9 the United States;

10 (2) Beaufort, South Carolina, and the sur-
11 rounding sea islands—

12 (A) contain significant historical and ar-
13 chaeological sites associated with the Recon-
14 struction Era; and

15 (B) offer a unique opportunity for pre-
16 serving and interpreting the Reconstruction
17 Era;

18 (3) the first African-Americans to hear the
19 reading of Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Procla-
20 mation assembled on January 1, 1863, at the Old
21 Fort Plantation on the Beaufort River in the State
22 of South Carolina;

23 (4) the Penn School, a national historic land-
24 mark located on St. Helena Island, South
25 Carolina—

1 (A) was the first educational experiment of
 2 the Reconstruction Era and the eventual end of
 3 chattel slavery; and

4 (B) remains 1 of the most significant Afri-
 5 can-American cultural and educational institu-
 6 tions in the United States;

7 (5) the Freedmen's Bureau, located in the re-
 8 stored Beaufort College, served as the chief policy
 9 arm of the Federal Government for matters related
 10 to emancipated slaves during the Reconstruction
 11 Era;

12 (6) Beaufort County, South Carolina, and the
 13 surrounding sea islands have many other noteworthy
 14 historic buildings and archaeological sites,
 15 including—

16 (A) buildings and sites associated with
 17 Robert Smalls, a former slave who—

18 (i) became a hero to the Union cause
 19 when he and several slaves seized control
 20 of the armed Confederate ship on which
 21 they served and then turned the ship over
 22 to the Union navy; and

23 (ii) represented the State of South
 24 Carolina in the House of Representatives
 25 during the Reconstruction Era;

1 (B) the first Freedmen's Village of
 2 Mitchellville on Hilton Head Island, South
 3 Carolina;

4 (C) Camp Sexton, the site of the first Afri-
 5 can-American regiment mustered in the United
 6 States Army; and

7 (D) Penn School and Beaufort College;

8 (7) the National Park System does not have a
 9 park or historic site that focuses primarily on the
 10 preservation and interpretation of the Reconstruc-
 11 tion Era; and

12 (8) the Reconstruction Era was a period of
 13 deep cultural, political, and economic division in the
 14 United States, and it is necessary to better under-
 15 stand this complex period of history and the con-
 16 tinuing impact of this period on the United States.

17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

19 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 20 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
 21 rector of the National Park Service.

22 (2) STUDY AREA.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “study area”
 24 means the area comprised of historical sites in

the historic district of Beaufort, South Carolina, relating to the Reconstruction Era.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “study area” includes—

(i) the Penn School;

(ii) the Old Fort Plantation on the Beaufort River;

(iii) the Freedmen’s Bureau in Beaufort College;

(iv) the First Freedmen’s Village of Mitchellville on Hilton Head Island;

(v) various historic buildings and archaeological sites associated with Robert Smalls;

(vi) the Beaufort Arsenal; and

(vii) other significant sites relating to the Reconstruction Era.

SEC. 4. STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall complete a study of the study area to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System.

1 (b) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—The study required under
 2 subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with Pub-
 3 lic Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–1 et seq.).

4 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

5 Not later than 2 years after the date on which the
 6 study under section 4(a) is completed, the Secretary shall
 7 submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of
 8 Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Nat-
 9 ural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

10 (1) the findings of the study; and

11 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
 12 Secretary.

13 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
 15 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

16 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

17 *This Act may be cited as the “Beaufort, South Caro-*
 18 *lina Study Act of 2002”.*

19 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

20 *In this Act:*

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

23 (2) **STUDY AREA.**—*The term “study area” means*
 24 *the area comprised of historical sites in Beaufort*

1 *County, South Carolina, relating to the Reconstruc-*
 2 *tion Era, and includes the following sites—*

3 *(A) the Penn School;*

4 *(B) the Old Fort Plantation on the Beaufort*
 5 *River;*

6 *(C) the Freedmen's Bureau in Beaufort Col-*
 7 *lege;*

8 *(D) the First Freedmen's Village of*
 9 *Mitchellville on Hilton Head Island;*

10 *(E) various historic buildings and archae-*
 11 *ological sites associated with Robert Smalls;*

12 *(F) the Beaufort Arsenal; and*

13 *(G) other significant sites relating to the*
 14 *Reconstruction Era.*

15 **SEC. 3. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.**

16 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a spe-*
 17 *cial resource study to determine whether the study area or*
 18 *individual sites within it are suitable and feasible for inclu-*
 19 *sion in the National Park System.*

20 *(b) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under sub-*
 21 *section (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section*
 22 *8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(c)).*

23 *(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on*
 24 *which funds are made available for the study under sub-*
 25 *section (a), the Secretary shall submit the study to the Com-*

1 *mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and*
2 *the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives.*

3 **SEC. 4. THEME STUDY.**

4 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall conduct a Na-*
5 *tional Historic Landmark theme study to identify sites and*
6 *resources throughout the United States that are significant*
7 *to the Reconstruction Era.*

8 (b) *CONTENTS.*—*The theme study shall include rec-*
9 *ommendations for commemorating and interpreting sites*
10 *and resources identified by the theme study, including sites*
11 *for which new national historic landmarks should be nomi-*
12 *nated, and sites for which further study for potential inclu-*
13 *sion in the National Park System is needed.*

14 (c) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 3 years after the date on*
15 *which funds are made available for the study under sub-*
16 *section (a), the Secretary submit to the Committee on En-*
17 *ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Com-*
18 *mittee on Resources of the House of Representatives a report*
19 *that describes the findings, conclusions, and recommenda-*
20 *tions of the study.*

21 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 *There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as*
23 *are necessary to carry out this Act.*

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