

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 904

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2003

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 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 Life-Saving Service was
2 organized by the Congress by enactment of the Act
3 entitled “An Act to organize the Life-Saving-Serv-
4 ice”, approved June 18, 1878 (chapter 265; 20 Stat.
5 163 et seq.).

6 (2) These lifesaving stations were staffed by
7 brave volunteer and professional lifesavers, who
8 risked life and limb to rescue shipwrecked pas-
9 sengers and crews.

10 (3) Many surviving Life-Saving Service stations
11 are of rare architectural significance, yet these his-
12 toric stations are threatened by harsh coastal envi-
13 ronments, rapid economic development in the coastal
14 zone, neglect, and lack of resources for their preser-
15 vation.

16 (4) The heroic actions of Life-Saving Service
17 personnel deserve greater recognition, and their con-
18 tributions to America’s maritime history should be
19 celebrated through a comprehensive preservation
20 program and greater opportunities for the public’s
21 education about the heritage of the Life-Saving
22 Service.

23 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-
24 ize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program

1 to inventory, evaluate, document, and assist efforts to pre-
2 serve surviving Life-Saving Service stations.

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

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

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

14 (1) survey coastal regions of the United States
15 to identify and prepare an inventory of surviving his-
16 toric lifesaving stations;

17 (2) document the designs of significant existing
18 structures and lifesaving boats of historic lifesaving
19 stations, for inclusion in the Historic American En-
20 gineering Record Collection; and

21 (3) evaluate historic lifesaving stations, includ-
22 ing—

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

1 (B) making recommendations for out-
2 standing examples of historic lifesaving stations
3 that should be designated as National Historic
4 Landmarks.

5 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, EDUCATIONAL MATE-
6 RIALS, RESEARCH AIDS, AND OTHER INFORMATION.—
7 The Secretary shall—

8 (1) serve as a clearinghouse of information for
9 persons interested in preserving historic lifesaving
10 stations; and

11 (2) make available to the public, including
12 through the Internet, educational materials, research
13 aids, guides, bibliographies, and other information
14 regarding the Life-Saving Service and related orga-
15 nizations that provided humanitarian assistance to
16 shipwrecked mariners, including—

17 (A) information on the history and devel-
18 opment of the Life-Saving Service, predecessor
19 private and State lifesaving organizations, and
20 Coast Guard lifesaving stations;

21 (B) technical descriptions of lifesaving
22 boats, line-guns, life cars, and other lifesaving
23 gear;

24 (C) the inventory, documentation, and
25 evaluation prepared under subsection (b); and

1 (D) guidance and technical assistance in
2 the listing of historic lifesaving stations in the
3 National Register of Historic Places.

4 (d) GRANTS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to
6 the availability of appropriations, shall make grants
7 to coordinate and assist preservation of historic life-
8 saving stations.

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

13 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) HISTORIC LIFESAVING STATION.—The term
15 “historic lifesaving station” means any land, struc-
16 ture, equipment, or other physical artifact or facility
17 formerly under the jurisdiction or control of the
18 Life-Saving Service, including lifesaving stations,
19 sailor’s refuges, shipwreck survivors’ cache sites, and
20 lifeboats.

21 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
22 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Na-
23 tional Maritime Initiative of the National Park Serv-
24 ice.

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 2004
5 through 2008; and

6 (2) for carrying out the other provisions of this
7 section \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2004
8 through 2008.

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