

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2899

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study to evaluate resources along the coastal region of the State of Delaware and to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing 1 or more units of the National Park System in Delaware, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 6, 2004

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. BIDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study to evaluate resources along the coastal region of the State of Delaware and to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing 1 or more units of the National Park System in Delaware, and for other purposes.

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 “Delaware National
5 Coastal Special Resources Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (re-
3 ferred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a
4 special resources study of the national significance, feasi-
5 bility of long-term preservation, and public use of sites in
6 the coastal region of the State of Delaware.

7 (b) INCLUSION OF SITES IN THE NATIONAL PARK
8 SYSTEM.—The study under subsection (a) shall include an
9 analysis and any recommendations of the Secretary con-
10 cerning the suitability and feasibility of—

11 (1) designating 1 or more of the sites along the
12 Delaware coast as units of the National Park Sys-
13 tem that relate to the themes described in section 3;
14 or

15 (2) establishing a national heritage area that
16 incorporates the sites along the Delaware coast that
17 relate to the themes described in section 3.

18 (c) STUDY GUIDELINES.—In conducting the study
19 authorized under subsection (a), the Secretary shall use
20 the criteria for the study of areas for potential inclusion
21 in the National Park System contained in section 8 of
22 Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5).

23 (d) CONSULTATION.—In preparing and conducting
24 the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult
25 with—

26 (1) the State of Delaware;

1 (2) the coastal region communities; and

2 (3) the general public.

3 **SEC. 3. THEMES.**

4 The study authorized under section 2 shall evaluate
5 sites along the coastal region of the State of Delaware that
6 relate to—

7 (1) the history of indigenous peoples, which
8 would explore history of Native American tribes of
9 Delaware, such as the Nanticoke and Lenni Lenape;

10 (2) the colonization and establishment of the
11 frontier, which would chronicle the first European
12 settlers in the Delaware Valley who built fortifica-
13 tions for the protection of settlers;

14 (3) the founding of a nation, which would docu-
15 ment the contributions of Delaware to the develop-
16 ment of our constitutional republic;

17 (4) industrial development, which would inves-
18 tigate the exploitation of water power in Delaware
19 with the mill development on the Brandywine River;

20 (5) transportation, which would explore how
21 water served as the main transportation link, con-
22 necting Colonial Delaware with England, Europe,
23 and other colonies;

24 (6) coastal defense, which would document the
25 collection of fortifications spaced along the river and

1 bay from Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island to
2 Fort Miles near Lewes;

3 (7) the last stop to freedom, which would detail
4 the role Delaware has played in the history of the
5 Underground Railroad network; and

6 (8) the coastal environment, which would exam-
7 ine natural resources of Delaware that provide re-
8 source-based recreational opportunities such as crab-
9 bing, fishing, swimming, and boating.

10 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

11 Not later than 1 year after funds are made available
12 to carry out this Act under section 5, the Secretary shall
13 submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
14 sources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources
15 of the House of Representatives a report containing the
16 findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study
17 conducted under section 2.

18 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
20 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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