

Union Calendar No. 555

114TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3342

[Report No. 114–716]

To provide for stability of title to certain lands in the State of Louisiana,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2015

Mr. FLEMING introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

SEPTEMBER 6, 2016

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union
and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To provide for stability of title to certain lands in the State
of Louisiana, 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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) On December 8, 1842, the Surveyor Gen-
6 eral of the United States Government approved an
7 original survey of lands in Northern Louisiana,
8 which included the lands surrounding Lake
9 Bistineau.

10 (2) Under the Equal Footing Doctrine, the
11 State of Louisiana was entitled to the lands under-
12 lying the navigable waters in place at statehood
13 within its limits.

14 (3) The State of Louisiana delineated its own-
15 ership based on the United States Government's
16 Original Survey of 1842.

17 (4) In 1901, the State of Louisiana transferred
18 over 7,000 acres of land to the Commissioners of the
19 Bossier Levee District through Louisiana Act Num-
20 ber 89 of 1892.

21 (5) The State of Louisiana conducted a survey
22 in 1901 that followed the same path around Lake
23 Bistineau as the Original Survey of 1842.

24 (6) The Bossier Levee District subsequently
25 conveyed the subject lands to private ownership in

1 1904. Lands within the subject lands continued to
2 be bought and sold in good faith based on the sta-
3 bility of this title.

4 (7) On September 16, 1967, the Bureau of
5 Land Management submitted a re-survey of the sub-
6 ject lands for S30–T16N–R10W and two adjacent
7 islands. The re-survey presented a new line to rep-
8 resent what the Bureau of Land Management sur-
9 veyors believed was the contour of Lake Bistineau
10 155 years earlier, when Louisiana joined the Union.
11 The Bureau of Land Management approved the re-
12 survey on January 15, 1969. That re-survey was
13 filed in the Federal Register (34 Fed. Reg. 2677),
14 but the Bureau of Land Management has presented
15 no records of further notifying all of the affected
16 landowners of the re-survey’s effects or that the re-
17 survey could be contested.

18 (8) On September 27, 2013, the Bureau of
19 Land Management responded to an inquiry by cer-
20 tain affected landowners to inform them that title to
21 their property would “appear to be still vested in the
22 United States”.

23 (9) There are estimated to be more than 200
24 acres and more than 50 residential homes on the re-
25 cently disputed lands.

1 **SEC. 2. LEGAL STATUS OF RE-SURVEY.**

2 The document titled “Dependent Re-Survey, Exten-
3 sion Survey and Survey of Two Islands, Sections 17, 29,
4 and 30” (completed on November 24, 1967; approved on
5 January 15, 1969; and filed in the Federal Register (34
6 Fed. Reg. 2677)) shall be void and have no legal force
7 or effect. No future survey or re-survey of the lands that
8 were the subject of that document undertaken by the Fed-
9 eral Government shall have any legal effect as to the title
10 and boundaries of those subject lands.

Union Calendar No. 555

114TH CONGRESS
2D Session

H. R. 3342

[Report No. 114-716]

A BILL

To provide for stability of title to certain lands in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2016

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed