

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8502

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site formerly known as “Rosewood”, located in Levy County, Florida, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2020

Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. SOTO, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. SPANO, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. SHALALA, and Ms. FRANKEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site formerly known as “Rosewood”, located in Levy County, Florida, 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 “Rosewood Study Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) The town of Rosewood was originally sur-
2 veyed in 1847 in Levy County, Florida, and quickly
3 became a majority minority community.

4 (2) On January 1, 1923, a young married
5 White woman from a neighboring town falsely ac-
6 cused an African-American man of assault.

7 (3) This accusation started a riot and the ma-
8 jority of Rosewood was burned to the ground.

9 (4) This riot led to an unjust massacre and
10 death toll that is still unknown.

11 (5) Survivors were forced to flee to the woods
12 and ultimately resettle around the State of Florida.

13 (6) The town of Rosewood never recovered from
14 this event.

15 (7) The Governor of Florida was notified of the
16 events, but did not intervene.

17 (8) A small attempt was eventually made to in-
18 dict locals by a grand jury, but this was unsucces-
19 ful.

20 (9) This tragedy went unnoticed by those who
21 were not immediately affected for almost 60 years,
22 until 1982 when a reporter for the Saint Petersburg
23 Times began to investigate the massacre.

24 (10) In 1993, the State of Florida formally in-
25 vestigated the event and eventually passed a law

1 issuing compensation for the losses to the victims
2 and creating a scholarship fund.

3 (11) Violence and prejudice have no place in
4 our society.

5 (12) Our society cannot be complacent in sense-
6 less acts of violence.

7 (13) In order to learn from history, our society
8 must make sure to remember it.

9 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of the Interior.

13 (2) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”
14 means the site formerly known as “Rosewood”,
15 “grounds of the Rosewood massacre”, and “State
16 Road 24, Rosewood” located in Levy County, Flor-
17 ida.

18 **SEC. 4. ROSEWOOD SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
20 date on which funds are first made available for this pur-
21 pose, the Secretary shall complete a special resource study
22 of the study area.

23 (b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study pursuant to
24 subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

1 (1) evaluate the national significance of the
2 study area;

3 (2) determine the suitability and feasibility of
4 designating the study area as a unit of the National
5 Park System;

6 (3) consider other alternatives for preservation,
7 protection, and interpretation of the study area by
8 the Federal Government, State or local government
9 entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

10 (4) consult with interested Federal agencies,
11 State or local governmental entities, private and
12 nonprofit organizations, or any other interested indi-
13 viduals; and

14 (5) identify cost estimates for any Federal ac-
15 quisition, development, interpretation, operation, and
16 maintenance associated with the alternatives de-
17 scribed in paragraphs (2) and (3).

18 (c) APPLICABLE LAW.—Except as provided by sub-
19 section (a), the study required by subsection (a) shall be
20 conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54,
21 United States Code.

22 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
23 on which funds are first made available to carry out the
24 study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to
25 the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-

1 representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
2 Resources of the Senate a report that describes—
3 (1) the results of the study; and
4 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
5 Secretary.

