

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 894

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide for clear title to certain land in Louisiana, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2019

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide for clear title to certain land in 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Lake Bistineau Land
5 Title Stability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. LAKE BISTINEAU LAND TITLE STABILITY.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) CLAIMANT.—The term “claimant” means
9 any individual, group, or corporation authorized to
10 hold title to land or mineral interests in land in the

1 State of Louisiana with a valid claim to the omitted
2 land, including any mineral interests.

3 (2) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-
4 titled “Lands as Delineated by Original Survey De-
5 cember 18, 1842 showing the 1969 Meander Line at
6 the 148.6 Elevation Line” and dated January 30,
7 2018.

8 (3) OMITTED LAND.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “omitted
10 land” means the land in lots 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,
11 12, and 13 of sec. 30, T. 16 N., R. 10 W., Lou-
12 isiana Meridian, comprising a total of approxi-
13 mately 229.72 acres, as depicted on the Map,
14 that—

15 (i) was in place during the Original
16 Survey; but

17 (ii) was not included in the Original
18 Survey.

19 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “omitted land”
20 includes—

21 (i) Peggy’s Island in lot 1 of sec. 17,
22 T. 16 N., R. 10 W., Louisiana Meridian;
23 and

24 (ii) Hog Island in lot 1 of sec. 29, T.
25 16 N., R. 10 W., Louisiana Meridian.

1 (4) ORIGINAL SURVEY.—The term “Original
2 Survey” means the survey of land surrounding Lake
3 Bistineau, Louisiana, conducted by the General
4 Land Office in 1838 and approved by the Surveyor
5 General on December 8, 1842.

6 (b) CONVEYANCES.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with the first sec-
8 tion of the Act of December 22, 1928 (commonly
9 known as the “Color of Title Act”) (45 Stat. 1069,
10 chapter 47; 43 U.S.C. 1068), except as provided by
11 this section, the Secretary shall convey to the claim-
12 ant the omitted land, including any mineral inter-
13 ests, that has been held in good faith and in peace-
14 ful, adverse possession by a claimant or an ancestor
15 or grantor of the claimant, under claim or color of
16 title, based on the Original Survey.

17 (2) CONFIRMATION OF TITLE.—The conveyance
18 or patent of omitted land to a claimant under para-
19 graph (1) shall have the effect of confirming title to
20 the surface and minerals in the claimant and shall
21 not serve as any admission by a claimant.

22 (c) PAYMENT OF COSTS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
24 graph (2), the conveyance required under subsection

25 (b) shall be without consideration.

1 (2) EXCEPTION.—Before the conveyance of the
2 omitted land under subsection (b), from any funds
3 appropriated to the State of Louisiana by the Lou-
4 isiana Legislature, the State of Louisiana shall pay
5 to the Secretary any costs incurred by the Secretary
6 relating to any survey, platting, legal description, or
7 associated activities required to prepare and issue a
8 patent under that subsection.

9 (d) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—As soon as
10 practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the
11 Secretary shall file, and make available for public inspec-
12 tion in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land and
13 Management, the Map and legal descriptions of the omit-
14 ted land to be conveyed under subsection (b).

○