

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4182

To establish the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site
in the State of Arkansas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 1998

Mr. SNYDER (for himself, Mr. BERRY, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. THOMPSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To establish the Little Rock Central High School National
Historic Site in the State of Arkansas, 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 AND PURPOSE.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

5 (1) the 1954 United States Supreme Court de-
6 cision of *Brown v. Board of Education*, which man-
7 dated an end to the segregation of public schools,
8 was one of the most significant court decisions in
9 the history of the United States;

1 (2) the admission of 9 African-American stu-
2 dents, known as the “Little Rock Nine”, to Little
3 Rock’s Central high School as a result of the Brown
4 decision, was the most prominent national example
5 of the implementation of the Brown decision, and
6 served as a catalyst for the integration of other, pre-
7 viously segregated public schools in the United
8 States;

9 (3) 1997 marked the 70th anniversary of the
10 construction of Central High School, which has been
11 named by the American Institute of Architects as
12 “the most beautiful high school building in Amer-
13 ica”;

14 (4) Central High School was included on the
15 National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and
16 designated by the Secretary of the Interior as a na-
17 tional historic landmark in 1982 in recognition of its
18 national significance in the development of the civil
19 rights movement in the United States; and

20 (5) the designation of Little Rock Central High
21 School as a unit of the National Park System will
22 recognize the significant role the school played in the
23 desegregation of public schools in the South and will
24 interpret for future generations the events associated
25 with early desegregation of Southern schools.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to pre-
2 serve, protect, and interpret for the benefit, education, and
3 inspiration of present and future generations, Central
4 High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and its role in the
5 integration of public schools and the development of the
6 civil rights movement in the United States.

7 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL NA-**
8 **TIONAL HISTORIC SITE.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Little Rock Central High
10 School national historic site in the State of Arkansas
11 (hereinafter referred to as the “historic site”) is hereby
12 established as a unit of the National Park System. The
13 historic site shall consist of lands and interests therein
14 comprising the Central High School campus in Little
15 Rock, Arkansas, as generally depicted on a map entitled
16 and dated June 1998. Such map shall be
17 on file and available for public inspection in the appro-
18 priate offices of the National Park Service.

19 (b) ADMINISTRATION OF HISTORIC SITE.—The Sec-
20 retary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the “Sec-
21 retary”) shall administer the historic site in accordance
22 with this Act and the laws generally applicable to units
23 of the National Park System, including the Act of August
24 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1, 2–4) and the Act of August 21,
25 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461–467): *Provided*, That nothing in this

1 Act shall affect the authority of the Little Rock School
2 District to administer Little Rock Central High School.

3 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—(1) The Secretary
4 may enter into cooperative agreements with appropriate
5 public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions
6 (including, but not limited to, the State of Arkansas, the
7 city of Little Rock, the Little Rock School District, Cen-
8 tral High Museum, Inc., Central High Neighborhood, Inc.,
9 or the University of Arkansas) in furtherance of the pur-
10 poses of this Act.

11 (2) The Secretary shall coordinate visitor interpreta-
12 tion of the historic site with the Little Rock School Dis-
13 trict and the Central High School Museum, Inc.

14 (d) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Within 2 years
15 after the date funds are made available, the Secretary
16 shall prepare a general management plan for the historic
17 site.

18 (e) CONTINUING EDUCATIONAL USE.—The Sec-
19 retary shall consult and coordinate with the Little Rock
20 School District in the development of the general manage-
21 ment plan and in the administration of the historic site
22 so as to not interfere with the continuing use of Central
23 High School as an educational institution.

24 (f) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—The Secretary is
25 authorized to acquire by purchase with donated or appro-

1 priated funds, by exchange, or donation the lands and in-
2 terests therein located within the boundaries of the his-
3 toric site, except that the Secretary may only acquire lands
4 or interests therein with the consent of the owner thereof
5 and lands or interests therein owned by the State of Ar-
6 kansas or a political subdivision thereof, may only be ac-
7 quired by donation or exchange.

8 **SEC. 3. DESEGREGATION IN PUBLIC EDUCATION THEME**
9 **STUDY.**

10 (a) **THEME STUDY.**—Within 2 years after the date
11 funds are made available, the Secretary shall prepare and
12 transmit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
13 sources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources
14 of the House of Representatives a national historic land-
15 mark theme study (hereinafter referred to as the “theme
16 study”) on the history of desegregation in public edu-
17 cation. The purpose of the theme study shall be to identify
18 sites, districts, buildings, structures, and landscapes that
19 best illustrate or commemorate key events or decisions in
20 the historical movement to provide for racial desegregation
21 in public education. On the basis of the theme study, the
22 Secretary shall identify possible new national historic
23 landmarks appropriate to this theme and prepare a list
24 in order of importance or merit of the most appropriate
25 sites for national historic landmark designation.

1 (b) OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION AND RE-
2 SEARCH.—The theme study shall identify appropriate
3 means to establish linkages between sites identified in sub-
4 section (a) and between those sites and the Central High
5 School National Historic Site established in section 2, and
6 with other existing units of the National Park System to
7 maximize opportunities for public education and scholarly
8 research on desegregation in public education. The theme
9 study also shall recommend opportunities for cooperative
10 arrangements with State and local governments, edu-
11 cational institutions, local historical organizations, and
12 other appropriate entities to preserve and interpret key
13 sites in the history of desegregation in public education.

14 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
15 may enter into cooperative agreements with 1 or more
16 major educational institutions, public history organiza-
17 tions, or civil rights organizations knowledgeable about de-
18 segregation in public education to prepare the theme study
19 and to ensure that the theme study meets scholarly stand-
20 ards.

21 (d) THEME STUDY COORDINATION WITH GENERAL
22 MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The theme study shall be prepared
23 as part of the preparation and development of the general
24 management plan for the Little Rock Central High School
25 National Historic Site established in section 2.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums

3 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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