

105<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 2232

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

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

3 (1) the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision of  
4 *Brown v. Board of Education*, which mandated an  
5 end to the segregation of public schools, was one of  
6 the most significant Court decisions in the history of  
7 the United States.

8 (2) the admission of nine African-American stu-  
9 dents, known as the “Little Rock Nine”, to Little  
10 Rock’s Central High School as a result of the *Brown*  
11 decision, was the most prominent national example  
12 of the implementation of the *Brown* decision, and  
13 served as a catalyst for the integration of other, pre-  
14 viously segregated public schools in the United  
15 States;

16 (3) 1997 marked the 70th anniversary of the  
17 construction of Central High School, which has been  
18 named by the American Institute of Architects as  
19 “the most beautiful high school building in Amer-  
20 ica”;

21 (4) Central High School was included on the  
22 National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and  
23 designated by the Secretary of the Interior as a Na-  
24 tional Historic Landmark in 1982 in recognition of  
25 its national significance in the development of the  
26 Civil Rights movement in the United States; and



1 able for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the  
2 National Park Service.

3 (b) ADMINISTRATION OF HISTORIC SITE.—The Sec-  
4 retary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the “Sec-  
5 retary”) shall administer the historic site in accordance  
6 with this Act. Only those lands under the direct jurisdic-  
7 tion of the Secretary shall be administered in accordance  
8 with the provisions of law generally applicable to units of  
9 the National Park System including the Act of August 25,  
10 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1, 2–4) and the Act of August 21, 1935  
11 (16 U.S.C. 461–467). Nothing in this Act shall affect the  
12 authority of the Little Rock School District to administer  
13 Little Rock Central High School nor shall this Act affect  
14 the authorities of the City of Little Rock in the neighbor-  
15 hood surrounding the school.

16 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—(1) The Secretary  
17 may enter into cooperative agreements with appropriate  
18 public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions  
19 (including, but not limited to, the State of Arkansas, the  
20 City of Little Rock, the Little Rock School District, Cen-  
21 tral High Museum, Inc., Central High Neighborhood, Inc.,  
22 or the University of Arkansas) in furtherance of the pur-  
23 poses of this Act.

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

4           (d) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Within three  
5 years after the date funds are made available, the Sec-  
6 retary shall prepare a general management plan for the  
7 historic site. The plan shall be prepared in consultation  
8 and coordination with the Little Rock School District, the  
9 City of Little Rock, Central High Museum, Inc., and with  
10 other appropriate organizations and agencies. The plan  
11 shall identify specific roles and responsibilities for the Na-  
12 tional Park Service in administering the historic site, and  
13 shall identify lands or property, if any, that might be nec-  
14 essary for the National Park Service to acquire in order  
15 to carry out its responsibilities. The plan shall also identify  
16 the roles and responsibilities of other entities in admin-  
17 istering the historic site and its programs. The plan shall  
18 include a management framework that ensures the admin-  
19 istration of the historic site does not interfere with the  
20 continuing use of Central High School as an educational  
21 institution.

22           (e) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—The Secretary is  
23 authorized to acquire by purchase with donated or appro-  
24 priated funds by exchange, or donation the lands and in-  
25 terested therein located within the boundaries of the his-

1 toric site: *Provided*, That the Secretary may only acquire  
 2 lands or interests therein within the consent of the owner  
 3 thereof: *Provided further*, That lands or interests therein  
 4 owned by the State of Arkansas or a political subdivision  
 5 thereof, may only be acquired by donation or exchange.

6 **SEC. 3. DESEGREGATION IN PUBLIC EDUCATION THEME**  
 7 **STUDY.**

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

24 (b) **OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION AND RE-**  
 25 **SEARCH.**—The theme study shall identify appropriate

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

12 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary  
13 may enter into cooperative agreements with one or more  
14 educational institutions, public history organizations, or  
15 civil rights organizations knowledgeable about desegrega-  
16 tion in public education to prepare the theme study and  
17 to ensure that the theme study meets scholarly standards.

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

1 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as  
3 may be necessary to carry out this Act.

      Passed the Senate October 2, 1998.

      Attest:

*Secretary.*

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