

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2232

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

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 25, 1998

Mr. BUMPERS (for himself and Mr. HUTCHINSON) introduced the following  
bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and  
Natural Resources

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## 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 U.S. Supreme Court decision of  
6 *Brown v. Board of Education*, which mandated an  
7 end to the segregation of public schools, was one of  
8 the most significant Court decisions in the history of  
9 the United States;

1           (2) the admission of nine 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  
18          its national significance in the development of the  
19          Civil 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 two  
15 years after the date funds are made available, the Sec-  
16 retary shall prepare a general management plan for the  
17 historic 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 General  
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: *Provided*, That the Secretary may only acquire  
4 lands or interests therein within the consent of the owner  
5 thereof: *Provided further*, That lands or interests therein  
6 owned by the State of Arkansas or a political subdivision  
7 thereof, may only be acquired by donation or exchange.

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

10 (a) **THEME STUDY.**—Within two 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 one 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. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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