

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5263

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a theme study on the peopling of America, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2000

Mr. SOUDER (for himself, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

---

## A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a theme study on the peopling of America, 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 “Peopling of America  
5 Theme Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) an important facet of the history of the  
9 United States is the story of how the United States  
10 was populated;

1           (2) the migration, immigration, and settlement  
2 of the population of the United States—

3           (A) is broadly termed the “peopling of  
4 America”; and

5           (B) is characterized by—

6           (i) the movement of groups of people  
7 across external and internal boundaries of  
8 the United States and territories of the  
9 United States; and

10          (ii) the interactions of those groups  
11 with each other and with other popu-  
12 lations;

13          (3) each of those groups has made unique, im-  
14 portant contributions to American history, culture,  
15 art, and life;

16          (4) the spiritual, intellectual, cultural, political,  
17 and economic vitality of the United States is a result  
18 of the pluralism and diversity of the American popu-  
19 lation;

20          (5) the success of the United States in embrac-  
21 ing and accommodating diversity has strengthened  
22 the national fabric and unified the United States in  
23 its values, institutions, experiences, goals, and ac-  
24 complishments;

1           (6)(A) the National Park Service’s official the-  
2           matic framework, revised in 1996, responds to the  
3           requirement of section 1209 of the Civil War Sites  
4           Study Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5 note; title XII  
5           of Public Law 101–628), that “the Secretary shall  
6           ensure that the full diversity of American history  
7           and prehistory are represented” in the identification  
8           and interpretation of historic properties by the Na-  
9           tional Park Service; and

10           (B) the thematic framework recognizes that  
11           “people are the primary agents of change” and es-  
12           tablishes the theme of human population movement  
13           and change—or “peopling places”—as a primary  
14           thematic category for interpretation and preserva-  
15           tion; and

16           (7) although there are approximately 70,000  
17           listings on the National Register of Historic Places,  
18           sites associated with the exploration and settlement  
19           of the United States by a broad range of cultures  
20           are not well represented.

21           (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

22           (1) to foster a much-needed understanding of  
23           the diversity and contribution of the breadth of  
24           groups who have peopled the United States; and



1           (2) can provide a basis for the preservation and  
2           interpretation of the peopling of America that has  
3           shaped the culture and society of the United States.

4           (c) IDENTIFICATION AND DESIGNATION OF POTEN-  
5           TIAL NEW NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—The theme study shall iden-  
7           tify and recommend for designation new national  
8           historic landmarks.

9           (2) LIST OF APPROPRIATE SITES.—The theme  
10          study shall—

11                 (A) include a list, in order of importance  
12                 or merit, of the most appropriate sites for na-  
13                 tional historic landmark designation; and

14                 (B) encourage the nomination of other  
15                 properties to the National Register of Historic  
16                 Places.

17           (3) DESIGNATION.—On the basis of the theme  
18           study, the Secretary shall designate new national  
19           historic landmarks.

20          (d) NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.—

21                 (1) IDENTIFICATION OF SITES WITHIN CUR-  
22                 RENT UNITS.—The theme study shall identify appro-  
23                 priate sites within units of the National Park Sys-  
24                 tem at which the peopling of America may be inter-  
25                 preted.

1           (2) IDENTIFICATION OF NEW SITES.—On the  
2 basis of the theme study, the Secretary shall rec-  
3 ommend to Congress sites for which studies for po-  
4 tential inclusion in the National Park System should  
5 be authorized.

6           (e) CONTINUING AUTHORITY.—After the date of sub-  
7 mission to Congress of the theme study, the Secretary  
8 shall, on a continuing basis, as appropriate to interpret  
9 the peopling of America—

10           (1) evaluate, identify, and designate new na-  
11 tional historic landmarks; and

12           (2) evaluate, identify, and recommend to Con-  
13 gress sites for which studies for potential inclusion  
14 in the National Park System should be authorized.

15           (f) PUBLIC EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.—

16           (1) LINKAGES.—

17           (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—On the basis of the  
18 theme study, the Secretary may identify appro-  
19 priate means for establishing linkages—

20           (i) between—

21           (I) regions, areas, trails, dis-  
22 tricts, communities, sites, buildings,  
23 structures, objects, organizations, so-  
24 cieties, and cultures identified under  
25 subsections (b) and (d); and

1 (II) groups of people; and

2 (ii) between—

3 (I) regions, areas, trails, dis-  
4 tricts, communities, sites, buildings,  
5 structures, objects, organizations, so-  
6 cieties, and cultures identified under  
7 subsection (b); and

8 (II) units of the National Park  
9 System identified under subsection  
10 (d).

11 (B) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the link-  
12 ages shall be to maximize opportunities for pub-  
13 lic education and scholarly research on the peo-  
14 pling of America.

15 (2) COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.—On the  
16 basis of the theme study, the Secretary shall, subject  
17 to the availability of funds, enter into cooperative ar-  
18 rangements with State and local governments, edu-  
19 cational institutions, local historical organizations,  
20 communities, and other appropriate entities to pre-  
21 serve and interpret key sites in the peopling of  
22 America.

23 (3) EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The documentation in  
2 the theme study shall be used for broad edu-  
3 cational initiatives such as—

4 (i) popular publications;

5 (ii) curriculum material such as the  
6 Teaching with Historic Places program;

7 (iii) heritage tourism products such as  
8 the National Register of Historic Places  
9 Travel Itineraries program; and

10 (iv) oral history and ethnographic pro-  
11 grams.

12 (B) COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS.—On the  
13 basis of the theme study, the Secretary shall  
14 implement cooperative programs to encourage  
15 the preservation and interpretation of the peo-  
16 pling of America.

17 **SEC. 5. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**

18 The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements  
19 with educational institutions, professional associations, or  
20 other entities knowledgeable about the peopling of  
21 America—

22 (1) to prepare the theme study;

23 (2) to ensure that the theme study is prepared  
24 in accordance with generally accepted scholarly  
25 standards; and

1           (3) to promote cooperative arrangements and  
2           programs relating to the peopling of America.

3 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4           There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
5 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

○