

Calendar No. 636

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2478

[Report No. 106-318]

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2000

Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. INOUE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

JUNE 27, 2000

Reported by Mr. MURKOWSKI, with amendments

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italie*]

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) an important facet of the history of the
4 United States is the story of how the United States
5 was populated;

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

8 (A) is broadly termed the “peopling of
9 America”; and

10 (B) is characterized by—

11 (i) the movement of groups of people
12 across external and internal boundaries of
13 the United States and territories of the
14 United States; and

15 (ii) the interactions of those groups
16 with each other and with other popu-
17 lations;

18 (3) each of those groups has made unique, im-
19 portant contributions to American history, culture,
20 art, and life;

21 (4) the spiritual, intellectual, cultural, political,
22 and economic vitality of the United States is a result
23 of the pluralism and diversity of the American popu-
24 lation;

25 (5) the success of the United States in embrac-
26 ing and accommodating diversity has strengthened

1 the national fabric and unified the United States in
2 its values, institutions, experiences, goals, and ac-
3 accomplishments;

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

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

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

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

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

4 (2) to strengthen the ability of the National
5 Park Service to include groups and events otherwise
6 not recognized in the peopling of the United States.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of the Interior.

11 (2) THEME STUDY.—The term “theme study”
12 means the national historic landmark theme study
13 required under section 4.

14 (3) *PEOPLING OF AMERICA*.—*The term ‘peopling*
15 *of America’ means the migration to and within, and*
16 *the settlement of, the United States.*

17 **SEC. 4. THEME STUDY.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prepare and
19 submit to Congress a national historic landmark theme
20 study on the peopling of America.

21 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the theme study shall
22 be to identify regions, areas, *trails*, districts, communities,
23 sites, buildings, structures, objects, organizations, soci-
24 eties, and cultures that—

1 (1) best illustrate and commemorate key events
2 or decisions affecting the peopling of America; and

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

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

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

11 (2) LIST OF APPROPRIATE SITES.—The theme
12 study shall—

13 (A) include a list in order of importance or
14 merit of the most appropriate sites for national
15 historic landmark designation; and

16 (B) encourage the nomination of other
17 properties to the National Register of Historic
18 ~~Places by assisting members of the public in~~
19 ~~evaluating sites within their communities and in~~
20 ~~surrounding areas.~~ *Places.*

21 (3) DESIGNATION.—On the basis of the theme
22 study, the Secretary shall designate new national
23 historic landmarks.

24 (d) NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.—

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

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

11 (e) CONTINUING AUTHORITY.—After the date of sub-
 12 mission to Congress of the theme study, the Secretary
 13 shall, on a continuing basis, as appropriate to interpret
 14 the peopling of America—

15 (1) evaluate, identify, and designate new na-
 16 tional historic landmarks; and

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

20 (f) PUBLIC EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.—

21 (1) LINKAGES.—

22 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—On the basis of the
 23 theme study, the Secretary may identify appro-
 24 priate means for establishing linkages—

25 (i) between—

1 (I) regions, *trails*, areas, dis-
2 tricts, communities, sites, buildings,
3 structures, objects, organizations, so-
4 cieties, and cultures identified under
5 subsections (b) and (d); and

6 (II) groups of people; and

7 (ii) between—

8 (I) regions, areas, districts, com-
9 munities, sites, buildings, structures,
10 objects, organizations, societies, and
11 cultures identified under subsection
12 (b); and

13 (II) units of the National Park
14 System identified under subsection
15 (d).

16 (B) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the link-
17 ages shall be to maximize opportunities for pub-
18 lic education and scholarly research on the peo-
19 pling of America.

20 (2) COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.—On the
21 basis of the theme study, the Secretary shall, subject
22 to the availability of funds, enter into cooperative ar-
23 rangements with State and local governments, edu-
24 cational institutions, local historical organizations,
25 communities, and other appropriate entities to pre-

1 serve and interpret key sites in the peopling of
2 America.

3 (3) EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES.—

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

7 (i) popular publications;

8 (ii) curriculum material such as the
9 Teaching with Historic Places program;

10 (iii) heritage tourism products such as
11 the National Register of Historic Places
12 Travel Itineraries program; and

13 (iv) oral history and ethnographic pro-
14 grams.

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

20 **SEC. 5. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**

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

25 (1) to prepare the theme study;

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

4 (3) to promote cooperative arrangements and
5 programs relating to the peopling of America.

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

7 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
8 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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