

Union Calendar No. 77

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1154

[Report No. 117-104]

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Mr. MCEACHIN (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. LURIA, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

JULY 26, 2021

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area, 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 “Great Dismal Swamp
5 National Heritage Area Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term “Heritage
9 Area” means the Great Dismal Swamp National
10 Heritage Area.

11 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of the Interior.

13 (3) STATES.—The term “States” means the
14 States of Virginia and North Carolina.

15 (4) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”
16 means—

17 (A) the cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk,
18 Portsmouth, and Suffolk in the State of Vir-
19 ginia;

20 (B) Isle of Wight County in the State of
21 Virginia;

22 (C) Camden, Currituck, Gates, and
23 Pasquotank counties in the State of North
24 Carolina; and

25 (D) any other areas in the States that—

- 1 (i) have heritage aspects that are
2 similar to the areas described in subpara-
3 graphs (A), (B), or (C); and
4 (ii) are adjacent to, or in the vicinity
5 of, those areas.

6 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
8 with State and local organizations and governmental agen-
9 cies, Tribal governments, non-profit organizations, and
10 other appropriate entities, shall conduct a study to assess
11 the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area
12 as a National Heritage Area, to be known as the “Great
13 Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area”.

14 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include anal-
15 ysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the
16 study area—

17 (1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and
18 cultural resources that—

19 (A) represent distinctive aspects of the
20 people and cultures of the United States;

21 (B) are worthy of recognition, conserva-
22 tion, interpretation, and continuing use; and

23 (C) would be best managed—

24 (i) through partnerships among public
25 and private entities; and

1 (ii) by linking diverse and sometimes
2 noncontiguous resources and active com-
3 munities;

4 (2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and
5 folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the
6 United States;

7 (3) provides outstanding opportunities—

8 (A) to conserve natural, historic, cultural,
9 or scenic features; and

10 (B) for recreation and education;

11 (4) contains resources that—

12 (A) are important to any identified themes
13 of the study area; and

14 (B) retain a degree of integrity capable of
15 supporting interpretation;

16 (5) includes residents, business interests, non-
17 profit organizations, and State, local, and Tribal
18 governments, and other appropriate entities that—

19 (A) are involved in the planning of the
20 Heritage Area;

21 (B) have developed a conceptual financial
22 plan that outlines the roles of all participants in
23 the Heritage Area, including the Federal Gov-
24 ernment; and

1 (C) have demonstrated support for the des-
2 ignation of the Heritage Area;

3 (6) has a potential management entity to work
4 in partnership with the individuals and entities de-
5 scribed in paragraph (5) to develop the Heritage
6 Area while encouraging State and local economic ac-
7 tivity; and

8 (7) has a conceptual boundary map that is sup-
9 ported by the public.

10 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

11 Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds
12 are first made available to carry out this Act, the Sec-
13 retary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Re-
14 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
15 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
16 a report that describes—

17 (1) the findings of the study under section 3;
18 and

19 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
20 Secretary.

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