

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 825

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2019

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. MORELLE, and Ms. STEFANIK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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 Finger Lakes 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 “Finger Lakes National
5 Heritage Area Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term “Heritage
2 Area” means the Finger Lakes National Heritage
3 Area.

4 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of the Interior.

6 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
7 of New York.

8 (4) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”
9 means—

10 (A) the counties in the State of Cayuga,
11 Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onon-
12 daga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben,
13 Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

14 (B) any other areas in the State that—

15 (i) have heritage aspects that are
16 similar to the areas described in subpara-
17 graph (A); and

18 (ii) are adjacent to, or in the vicinity
19 of, those areas.

20 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
22 with State and local historic preservation officers, State
23 and local historical societies, State and local tourism of-
24 fices, and other appropriate organizations and govern-
25 mental agencies, shall conduct a study to assess the suit-

1 ability and feasibility of designating the study area as a
2 National Heritage Area, to be known as the “Finger
3 Lakes National Heritage Area”.

4 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include anal-
5 ysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the
6 study area—

7 (1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and
8 cultural resources that—

9 (A) represent distinctive aspects of the her-
10 itage of the United States;

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

13 (C) would be best managed—

14 (i) through partnerships among public
15 and private entities; and

16 (ii) by linking diverse and sometimes
17 noncontiguous resources and active com-
18 munities;

19 (2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and
20 folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the
21 United States;

22 (3) provides outstanding opportunities—

23 (A) to conserve natural, historic, cultural,
24 or scenic features; and

25 (B) for recreation and education;

1 (4) contains resources that—

2 (A) are important to any identified themes
3 of the study area; and

4 (B) retain a degree of integrity capable of
5 supporting interpretation;

6 (5) includes residents, business interests, non-
7 profit organizations, and State and local govern-
8 ments that—

9 (A) are involved in the planning of the
10 Heritage Area;

11 (B) have developed a conceptual financial
12 plan that outlines the roles of all participants in
13 the Heritage Area, including the Federal Gov-
14 ernment; and

15 (C) have demonstrated support for the des-
16 ignation of the Heritage Area;

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

22 (7) could impact the rights of private property
23 owners with respect to their private property; and

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

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

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

8 (1) the findings of the study under section 3;

9 and

10 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the

11 Secretary.

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