

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5056

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to inventory Confederate commemorative works on certain Federal lands, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2018

Mr. MCEACHIN (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. LEE, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. BASS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to inventory Confederate commemorative works on certain Federal lands, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Confederate Com-
3 memorative Works Inventory and Joint Resource Study
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The American Civil War was fought be-
8 tween 1861 and 1865.

9 (2) As early as 1864, efforts were underway to
10 preserve places that had been the location of pivotal
11 battles during the Civil War, even before surrender
12 occurred.

13 (3) The National Park Service preserves
14 unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and
15 values of the National Park System for the enjoy-
16 ment, education, and inspiration of this and future
17 generations, including sites dedicated to the inter-
18 pretation of the American Civil War.

19 (4) The National Park Service, the Department
20 of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense
21 administer public lands that are responsible for Con-
22 federate commemorative works.

23 (5) There are 147 national cemeteries in the
24 United States. Fourteen are maintained by the De-
25 partment of the Interior, through the National Park
26 Service. The Department of Veterans Affairs,

1 through the National Cemetery Administration, ad-
2 ministers 131 cemeteries. The Department of De-
3 fense, through the Army, administers 2 cemeteries.

4 (6) The Department of Defense has jurisdiction
5 over—

6 (A) 10 major United States military instal-
7 lations named in honor of Confederate military
8 leaders; and

9 (B) Navy ships named after Confederate
10 victories.

11 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

12 For the purposes of this Act:

13 (1) CONFEDERATE COMMEMORATIVE WORK.—

14 The term “Confederate commemorative work”—

15 (A) means any work that mentions individ-
16 uals or units who participated or served in the
17 advancement of Confederate efforts; and

18 (B) includes the Confederate flag and any
19 other symbols or signage that honors the Con-
20 federacy, including any monument, statue, or
21 plaque that honors a Confederate leader, sol-
22 dier, or supporter of the Confederate States of
23 America.

24 (2) CONFEDERATE FLAG.—The term “Confed-
25 erate flag”—

1 (A) means the national flag of the Confed-
2 eracy from 1861 through 1865; and

3 (B) includes the Stars and Bars, the
4 Stainless Banner, the Blood-Stained Banner,
5 the Confederate States Navy flag, the battle
6 flag of the Army of Northern Virginia, any
7 State or regimental flag as such flag was de-
8 picted during 1861–1865, and modern rep-
9 resentations of the Confederate battle flag.

10 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
11 the Director of the National Park Service.

12 (4) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
13 retary concerned” means the Secretary of the Inte-
14 rior, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of
15 Veterans Affairs, each in reference to Federal land
16 under the jurisdiction of that Secretary.

17 **SEC. 4. INVENTORY AND RESOURCE STUDY.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each Secretary concerned shall—

19 (1) conduct a full inventory of Confederate
20 commemorative works under the administrative ju-
21 risdiction of that Secretary; and

22 (2) submit a copy of that inventory to the Di-
23 rector.

1 (b) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—Using the inventories re-
2 ceived pursuant to subsection (a), the Director shall con-
3 duct a special resource study that—

4 (1) examines works, commemorating and inter-
5 preting the Civil War, the commemoration thereof,
6 the soldiers, people on the home front and battle
7 lines, and the related locations in the United States
8 from 1861 through 1865; and

9 (2) identifies—

10 (A) a historical assessment, based on ex-
11 tensive research, of each inventoried Confed-
12 erate commemorative work;

13 (B) an evaluation of the suitability and
14 feasibility of retaining the Confederate com-
15 memorative work;

16 (C) the identification of properties that
17 could meet criteria for listing in the National
18 Register of Historic Places or criteria for des-
19 ignation as National Historic Landmarks or if
20 the Confederate commemorative work is already
21 on the or part of, another designation or dis-
22 trict;

23 (D) an evaluation of relevant historical re-
24 search on, education about, interpretation of,

1 and public awareness of the Confederate com-
2 memorative work; and

3 (E) any other matters that the Director
4 determines to be appropriate for this study.

5 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after funds are
6 made available for the study, the Secretary of the Interior
7 shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of
8 the House of Representatives and the Committee on En-
9 ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report con-
10 taining the findings of the study required under subsection
11 (b) and any related recommendations.

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