

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5225

AN ACT

To revise the boundaries of the Richmond National Battlefield Park based on the findings of the Civil War Sites Advisory Committee and the National Park Service and to encourage cooperative management, protection, and interpretation of the resources associated with the Civil War and the Civil War battles in and around the city of Richmond, Virginia.

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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; DEFINITIONS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Richmond National Battlefield Park Act of 2000”.

6 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

7 (1) BATTLEFIELD PARK.—The term “battle-
8 field park” means the Richmond National Battle-
9 field Park.

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

12 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

13 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

14 (1) In the Act of March 2, 1936 (Chapter 113;
15 49 Stat. 1155; 16 U.S.C. 423j), Congress authorized
16 the establishment of the Richmond National Battle-
17 field Park, and the boundaries of the battlefield park
18 were established to permit the inclusion of all mili-
19 tary battlefield areas related to the battles fought
20 during the Civil War in the vicinity of the city of
21 Richmond, Virginia. The battlefield park originally
22 included the area then known as the Richmond Bat-
23 tlefield State Park.

24 (2) The total acreage identified in 1936 for
25 consideration for inclusion in the battlefield park

1 consisted of approximately 225,000 acres in and
2 around the city of Richmond. A study undertaken by
3 the congressionally authorized Civil War Sites Advi-
4 sory Committee determined that of these 225,000
5 acres, the historically significant areas relating to
6 the campaigns against and in defense of Richmond
7 encompass approximately 38,000 acres.

8 (3) In a 1996 general management plan, the
9 National Park Service identified approximately
10 7,121 acres in and around the city of Richmond that
11 satisfy the National Park Service criteria of signifi-
12 cance, integrity, feasibility, and suitability for inclu-
13 sion in the battlefield park. The National Park Serv-
14 ice later identified an additional 186 acres for inclu-
15 sion in the battlefield park.

16 (4) There is a national interest in protecting
17 and preserving sites of historical significance associ-
18 ated with the Civil War and the city of Richmond.

19 (5) The Commonwealth of Virginia and its local
20 units of government have authority to prevent or
21 minimize adverse uses of these historic resources
22 and can play a significant role in the protection of
23 the historic resources related to the campaigns
24 against and in defense of Richmond.

1 (6) The preservation of the New Market
2 Heights Battlefield in the vicinity of the city of
3 Richmond is an important aspect of American his-
4 tory that can be interpreted to the public. The Bat-
5 tle of New Market Heights represents a premier
6 landmark in black military history as 14 black
7 Union soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor in
8 recognition of their valor during the battle. Accord-
9 ing to National Park Service historians, the sac-
10 rifices of the United States Colored Troops in this
11 battle helped to ensure the passage of the Thirteenth
12 Amendment to the United States Constitution to
13 abolish slavery.

14 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act—

15 (1) to revise the boundaries for the Richmond
16 National Battlefield Park based on the findings of
17 the Civil War Sites Advisory Committee and the Na-
18 tional Park Service; and

19 (2) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to
20 work in cooperation with the Commonwealth of Vir-
21 ginia, the city of Richmond, other political subdivi-
22 sions of the Commonwealth, other public entities,
23 and the private sector in the management, protec-
24 tion, and interpretation of the resources associated

1 with the Civil War and the Civil War battles in and
2 around the city of Richmond, Virginia.

3 **SEC. 3. RICHMOND NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK; BOUND-**
4 **ARIES.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—For the pur-
6 pose of protecting, managing, and interpreting the re-
7 sources associated with the Civil War battles in and
8 around the city of Richmond, Virginia, there is established
9 the Richmond National Battlefield Park consisting of ap-
10 proximately 7,307 acres of land, as generally depicted on
11 the map entitled “Richmond National Battlefield Park
12 Boundary Revision”, numbered 367N.E.F.A.80026A, and
13 dated September 2000. The map shall be on file in the
14 appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

15 (b) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary may
16 make minor adjustments in the boundaries of the battle-
17 field park consistent with section 7(c) of the Land and
18 Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l-
19 9(c)).

20 **SEC. 4. LAND ACQUISITION.**

21 (a) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire
23 lands, waters, and interests in lands within the
24 boundaries of the battlefield park from willing land-
25 owners by donation, purchase with donated or ap-

1 appropriated funds, or exchange. In acquiring lands
2 and interests in lands under this Act, the Secretary
3 shall acquire the minimum interest necessary to
4 achieve the purposes for which the battlefield is es-
5 tablished.

6 (2) SPECIAL RULE FOR PRIVATE LANDS.—Pri-
7 vately owned lands or interests in lands may be ac-
8 quired under this Act only with the consent of the
9 owner.

10 (b) EASEMENTS.—

11 (1) OUTSIDE BOUNDARIES.—The Secretary
12 may acquire an easement on property outside the
13 boundaries of the battlefield park and around the
14 city of Richmond, with the consent of the owner, if
15 the Secretary determines that the easement is nec-
16 essary to protect core Civil War resources as identi-
17 fied by the Civil War Sites Advisory Committee.
18 Upon acquisition of the easement, the Secretary
19 shall revise the boundaries of the battlefield park to
20 include the property subject to the easement.

21 (2) INSIDE BOUNDARIES.—To the extent prac-
22 ticable, and if preferred by a willing landowner, the
23 Secretary shall use permanent conservation ease-
24 ments to acquire interests in land in lieu of acquir-

1 ing land in fee simple and thereby removing land
2 from non-Federal ownership.

3 (c) VISITOR CENTER.—The Secretary may acquire
4 the Tredegar Iron Works buildings and associated land
5 in the city of Richmond for use as a visitor center for the
6 battlefield park.

7 **SEC. 5. PARK ADMINISTRATION.**

8 (a) APPLICABLE LAWS.—The Secretary, acting
9 through the Director of the National Park Service, shall
10 administer the battlefield park in accordance with this Act
11 and laws generally applicable to units of the National Park
12 System, including the Act of August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C.
13 1 et. seq.) and the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C.
14 461 et. seq.).

15 (b) NEW MARKET HEIGHTS BATTLEFIELD.—The
16 Secretary shall provide for the establishment of a monu-
17 ment or memorial suitable to honor the 14 Medal of Honor
18 recipients from the United States Colored Troops who
19 fought in the Battle of New Market Heights. The Sec-
20 retary shall include the Battle of New Market Heights and
21 the role of black Union soldiers in the battle in historical
22 interpretations provided to the public at the battlefield
23 park.

24 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
25 may enter into cooperative agreements with the Common-

1 wealth of Virginia, its political subdivisions (including the
2 city of Richmond), private property owners, and other
3 members of the private sector to develop mechanisms to
4 protect and interpret the historical resources within the
5 battlefield park in a manner that would allow for contin-
6 ued private ownership and use where compatible with the
7 purposes for which the battlefield is established.

8 (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
9 provide technical assistance to the Commonwealth of Vir-
10 ginia, its political subdivisions, nonprofit entities, and pri-
11 vate property owners for the development of comprehen-
12 sive plans, land use guidelines, special studies, and other
13 activities that are consistent with the identification, pro-
14 tection, interpretation, and commemoration of historically
15 significant Civil War resources located inside and outside
16 of the boundaries of the battlefield park. The technical as-
17 sistance does not authorize the Secretary to own or man-
18 age any of the resources outside the battlefield park
19 boundaries.

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

21 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
22 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

1 **SEC. 7. REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED LAW.**

2 The Act of March 2, 1936 (Chapter 113; 16 U.S.C.
3 423j–423l) is repealed.

 Passed the House of Representatives October 17,
2000.

Attest:

Clerk.