

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5225

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2000

Mr. BLILEY (for himself and Mr. SCOTT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

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.

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”.

1 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

2 (1) BATTLEFIELD PARK.—The term “battle-
3 field park” means the Richmond National Battle-
4 field Park.

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

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

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

9 (1) In the Act of March 2, 1936 (Chapter 113;
10 49 Stat. 1155; 16 U.S.C. 423j), Congress authorized
11 the establishment of the Richmond National Battle-
12 field Park, and the boundaries of the battlefield park
13 were established to permit the inclusion of all mili-
14 tary battlefield areas related to the battles fought
15 during the Civil War in the vicinity of the city of
16 Richmond, Virginia. The battlefield park originally
17 included the area then known as the Richmond Bat-
18 tlefield State Park.

19 (2) The total acreage identified in 1936 for
20 consideration for inclusion in the battlefield park
21 consisted of approximately 225,000 acres in and
22 around the city of Richmond. A study undertaken by
23 the congressionally authorized Civil War Sites Advi-
24 sory Committee determined that of these 225,000
25 acres, the historically significant areas relating to

1 the campaigns against and in defense of Richmond
2 encompass approximately 38,000 acres.

3 (3) In a 1996 general management plan, the
4 National Park Service identified approximately
5 7,121 acres in and around the city of Richmond that
6 satisfy the National Park Service criteria of signifi-
7 cance, integrity, feasibility, and suitability for inclu-
8 sion in the battlefield park. The National Park Serv-
9 ice later identified an additional 186 acres for inclu-
10 sion in the battlefield park.

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

14 (5) The Commonwealth of Virginia and its local
15 units of government have authority to prevent or
16 minimize adverse uses of these historic resources
17 and can play a significant role in the protection of
18 the historic resources related to the campaigns
19 against and in defense of Richmond.

20 (6) The preservation of the New Market
21 Heights Battlefield in the vicinity of the city of
22 Richmond is an important aspect of American his-
23 tory that can be interpreted to the public. The Bat-
24 tle of New Market Heights represents a premier
25 landmark in black military history as 14 black

1 Union soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor in
2 recognition of their valor during the battle. Accord-
3 ing to National Park Service historians, the sac-
4 rifices of the United States Colored Troops in this
5 battle helped to ensure the passage of the Thirteenth
6 Amendment to the United States Constitution to
7 abolish slavery.

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

9 (1) to revise the boundaries for the Richmond
10 National Battlefield Park based on the findings of
11 the Civil War Sites Advisory Committee and the Na-
12 tional Park Service; and

13 (2) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to
14 work in cooperation with the Commonwealth of Vir-
15 ginia, the city of Richmond, other political subdivi-
16 sions of the Commonwealth, other public entities,
17 and the private sector in the management, protec-
18 tion, and interpretation of the resources associated
19 with the Civil War and the Civil War battles in
20 around the city of Richmond, Virginia.

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

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—For the pur-
24 pose of protecting, managing, and interpreting the re-
25 sources associated with the Civil War battles in and

1 around the city of Richmond, Virginia, there is established
2 the Richmond National Battlefield Park consisting of ap-
3 proximately 7,307 acres of land, as generally depicted on
4 the map entitled “Richmond National Battlefield Park
5 Boundary Revision”, numbered 367N.E.F.A.80026A, and
6 dated September 2000. The map shall be on file in the
7 appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

8 (b) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary may
9 make minor adjustments in the boundaries of the battle-
10 field park consistent with section 7(c) of the Land and
11 Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l-
12 9(c)).

13 **SEC. 4. LAND ACQUISITION.**

14 (a) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire
16 lands, waters, and interests in lands within the
17 boundaries of the battlefield park by donation, pur-
18 chase with donated or appropriated funds, or ex-
19 change. In acquiring lands and interests in lands
20 under this Act, the Secretary shall acquire the min-
21 imum interest necessary to achieve the purposes for
22 which the battlefield is established.

23 (2) SPECIAL RULE FOR PRIVATE LANDS.—Pri-
24 vately owned lands or interests in lands may be ac-

1 quired under this Act only with the consent of the
2 owner.

3 (b) EASEMENTS OUTSIDE BOUNDARIES.—The Sec-
4 retary may acquire an easement on property outside the
5 boundaries of the battlefield park and around the city of
6 Richmond, with the consent of the owner, if the Secretary
7 determines that the easement is necessary to protect core
8 Civil War resources as identified by the Civil War Sites
9 Advisory Committee. Upon acquisition of the easement,
10 the Secretary shall revise the boundaries of the battlefield
11 park to include the property subject to the easement.

12 (c) VISITOR CENTER.—The Secretary may acquire
13 the Tredegar Iron Works buildings and associated land
14 in the city of Richmond for use as a visitor center for the
15 battlefield park.

16 **SEC. 5. PARK ADMINISTRATION.**

17 (a) APPLICABLE LAWS.—The Secretary, acting
18 through the Director of the National Park Service, shall
19 administer the battlefield park in accordance with this Act
20 and laws generally applicable to units of the National Park
21 System, including the Act of August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C.
22 1 et seq.) and the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C.
23 461 et seq.).

24 (b) INTERPRETATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—In administering the battle-
2 field park, the Secretary shall interpret, for the ben-
3 efit of visitors to the battlefield park and the general
4 public, the battles of Richmond in the larger context
5 of the Civil War and American history, including the
6 causes and consequences of the Civil War and the
7 effects of the war on all the American people.

8 (2) NEW MARKET HEIGHTS BATTLEFIELD.—
9 The Secretary shall provide for the establishment of
10 a monument or memorial suitable to honor the 14
11 Medal of Honor recipients from the United States
12 Colored Troops who fought in the Battle of New
13 Market Heights. The Secretary shall include the
14 Battle of New Market Heights and the role of black
15 Union soldiers in the battle in historical interpreta-
16 tions provided to the public at the battlefield park.

17 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
18 may enter into cooperative agreements with the Common-
19 wealth of Virginia, its political subdivisions (including the
20 city of Richmond), private property owners, and other
21 members of the private sector to develop mechanisms to
22 protect and interpret the historical resources within the
23 battlefield park in a manner that would allow for contin-
24 ued private ownership and use where compatible with the
25 purposes for which the battlefield is established.

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

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

14 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
15 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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

17 The Act of March 2, 1936 (Chapter 113; 16 U.S.C.
18 423j–423l) is repealed.

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