

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2478

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## AN ACT

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a theme study on the peopling of America, 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 “Peopling of America  
5       Theme Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) an important facet of the history of the  
4 United States is the story of how the United States  
5 was populated;

6 (2) the migration, immigration, and settlement  
7 of the population of the United States—

8 (A) is broadly termed the “peopling of  
9 America”; and

10 (B) is characterized by—

11 (i) the movement of groups of people  
12 across external and internal boundaries of  
13 the United States and territories of the  
14 United States; and

15 (ii) the interactions of those groups  
16 with each other and with other popu-  
17 lations;

18 (3) each of those groups has made unique, im-  
19 portant contributions to American history, culture,  
20 art, and life;

21 (4) the spiritual, intellectual, cultural, political,  
22 and economic vitality of the United States is a result  
23 of the pluralism and diversity of the American popu-  
24 lation;

25 (5) the success of the United States in embrac-  
26 ing and accommodating diversity has strengthened

1 the national fabric and unified the United States in  
2 its values, institutions, experiences, goals, and ac-  
3 complishments;

4 (6)(A) the National Park Service’s official the-  
5 matic framework, revised in 1996, responds to the  
6 requirement of section 1209 of the Civil War Sites  
7 Study Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5 note; Public  
8 Law 101–628), that “the Secretary shall ensure that  
9 the full diversity of American history and prehistory  
10 are represented” in the identification and interpreta-  
11 tion of historic properties by the National Park  
12 Service; and

13 (B) the thematic framework recognizes that  
14 “people are the primary agents of change” and es-  
15 tablishes the theme of human population movement  
16 and change—or “peopling places”—as a primary  
17 thematic category for interpretation and preserva-  
18 tion; and

19 (7) although there are approximately 70,000  
20 listings on the National Register of Historic Places,  
21 sites associated with the exploration and settlement  
22 of the United States by a broad range of cultures  
23 are not well represented.

24 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

1           (1) to foster a much-needed understanding of  
2           the diversity and contribution of the breadth of  
3           groups who have peopled the United States; and

4           (2) to strengthen the ability of the National  
5           Park Service to include groups and events otherwise  
6           not recognized in the peopling of the United States.

7   **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8           In this Act:

9           (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
10          the Secretary of the Interior.

11          (2) THEME STUDY.—The term “theme study”  
12          means the national historic landmark theme study  
13          required under section 4.

14          (3) PEOPLING OF AMERICA.—The term “peo-  
15          pling of America” means the migration to and with-  
16          in, and the settlement of, the United States.

17   **SEC. 4. THEME STUDY.**

18          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prepare and  
19          submit to Congress a national historic landmark theme  
20          study on the peopling of America.

21          (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the theme study shall  
22          be to identify regions, areas, trails, districts, communities,  
23          sites, buildings, structures, objects, organizations, soci-  
24          eties, and cultures that—

1 (1) best illustrate and commemorate key events  
 2 or decisions affecting the peopling of America; and

3 (2) can provide a basis for the preservation and  
 4 interpretation of the peopling of America that has  
 5 shaped the culture and society of the United States.

6 (c) IDENTIFICATION AND DESIGNATION OF POTEN-  
 7 TIAL NEW NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The theme study shall iden-  
 9 tify and recommend for designation new national  
 10 historic landmarks.

11 (2) LIST OF APPROPRIATE SITES.—The theme  
 12 study shall—

13 (A) include a list in order of importance or  
 14 merit of the most appropriate sites for national  
 15 historic landmark designation; and

16 (B) encourage the nomination of other  
 17 properties to the National Register of Historic  
 18 Places.

19 (3) DESIGNATION.—On the basis of the theme  
 20 study, the Secretary shall designate new national  
 21 historic landmarks.

22 (d) NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.—

23 (1) IDENTIFICATION OF SITES WITHIN CUR-  
 24 RENT UNITS.—The theme study shall identify appro-  
 25 priate sites within units of the National Park Sys-

1       tem at which the peopling of America may be inter-  
2       preted.

3           (2) IDENTIFICATION OF NEW SITES.—On the  
4       basis of the theme study, the Secretary shall rec-  
5       ommend to Congress sites for which studies for po-  
6       tential inclusion in the National Park System should  
7       be authorized.

8       (e) CONTINUING AUTHORITY.—After the date of sub-  
9       mission to Congress of the theme study, the Secretary  
10      shall, on a continuing basis, as appropriate to interpret  
11      the peopling of America—

12           (1) evaluate, identify, and designate new na-  
13      tional historic landmarks; and

14           (2) evaluate, identify, and recommend to Con-  
15      gress sites for which studies for potential inclusion  
16      in the National Park System should be authorized.

17      (f) PUBLIC EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.—

18           (1) LINKAGES.—

19           (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—On the basis of the  
20      theme study, the Secretary may identify appro-  
21      priate means for establishing linkages—

22           (i) between—

23                   (I) regions, areas, trails, dis-  
24                   tricts, communities, sites, buildings,  
25                   structures, objects, organizations, so-

1 cieties, and cultures identified under  
 2 subsections (b) and (d); and

3 (II) groups of people; and

4 (ii) between—

5 (I) regions, areas, districts, com-  
 6 munities, sites, buildings, structures,  
 7 objects, organizations, societies, and  
 8 cultures identified under subsection  
 9 (b); and

10 (II) units of the National Park  
 11 System identified under subsection  
 12 (d).

13 (B) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the link-  
 14 ages shall be to maximize opportunities for pub-  
 15 lic education and scholarly research on the peo-  
 16 pling of America.

17 (2) COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.—On the  
 18 basis of the theme study, the Secretary shall, subject  
 19 to the availability of funds, enter into cooperative ar-  
 20 rangements with State and local governments, edu-  
 21 cational institutions, local historical organizations,  
 22 communities, and other appropriate entities to pre-  
 23 serve and interpret key sites in the peopling of  
 24 America.

25 (3) EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The documentation in  
 2 the theme study shall be used for broad edu-  
 3 cational initiatives such as—

4 (i) popular publications;

5 (ii) curriculum material such as the  
 6 Teaching with Historic Places program;

7 (iii) heritage tourism products such as  
 8 the National Register of Historic Places  
 9 Travel Itineraries program; and

10 (iv) oral history and ethnographic pro-  
 11 grams.

12 (B) COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS.—On the  
 13 basis of the theme study, the Secretary shall  
 14 implement cooperative programs to encourage  
 15 the preservation and interpretation of the peo-  
 16 pling of America.

17 **SEC. 5. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**

18 The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements  
 19 with educational institutions, professional associations, or  
 20 other entities knowledgeable about the peopling of  
 21 America—

22 (1) to prepare the theme study;

23 (2) to ensure that the theme study is prepared  
 24 in accordance with generally accepted scholarly  
 25 standards; and

1           (3) to promote cooperative arrangements and  
2       programs relating to the peopling of America.

3 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4       There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
5 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

        Passed the Senate October 5 (legislative day, September 22), 2000.

        Attest:

*Secretary.*



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