

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2478

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a theme study on the peopling of America, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2000

Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

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”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) an important facet of the history of the
9 United States is the story of how the United States
10 was populated;

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

3 (A) is broadly termed the “peopling of
4 America”; and

5 (B) is characterized by—

6 (i) the movement of groups of people
7 across external and internal boundaries of
8 the United States and territories of the
9 United States; and

10 (ii) the interactions of those groups
11 with each other and with other popu-
12 lations;

13 (3) each of those groups has made unique, im-
14 portant contributions to American history, culture,
15 art, and life;

16 (4) the spiritual, intellectual, cultural, political,
17 and economic vitality of the United States is a result
18 of the pluralism and diversity of the American popu-
19 lation;

20 (5) the success of the United States in embrac-
21 ing and accommodating diversity has strengthened
22 the national fabric and unified the United States in
23 its values, institutions, experiences, goals, and ac-
24 complishments;

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of the Interior.

8 (2) THEME STUDY.—The term “theme study”
9 means the national historic landmark theme study
10 required under section 4.

11 **SEC. 4. THEME STUDY.**

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

15 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the theme study shall
16 be to identify regions, areas, districts, communities, sites,
17 buildings, structures, objects, organizations, societies, and
18 cultures that—

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

21 (2) can provide a basis for the preservation and
22 interpretation of the peopling of America that has
23 shaped the culture and society of the United States.

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

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

4 (2) LIST OF APPROPRIATE SITES.—The theme
5 study shall—

6 (A) include a list in order of importance or
7 merit of the most appropriate sites for national
8 historic landmark designation; and

9 (B) encourage the nomination of other
10 properties to the National Register of Historic
11 Places by assisting members of the public in
12 evaluating sites within their communities and in
13 surrounding areas.

14 (3) DESIGNATION.—On the basis of the theme
15 study, the Secretary shall designate new national
16 historic landmarks.

17 (d) NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.—

18 (1) IDENTIFICATION OF SITES WITHIN CUR-
19 RENT UNITS.—The theme study shall identify appro-
20 priate sites within units of the National Park Sys-
21 tem at which the peopling of America may be inter-
22 preted.

23 (2) IDENTIFICATION OF NEW SITES.—On the
24 basis of the theme study, the Secretary shall rec-
25 ommend to Congress sites for which studies for po-

1 potential inclusion in the National Park System should
2 be authorized.

3 (e) CONTINUING AUTHORITY.—After the date of sub-
4 mission to Congress of the theme study, the Secretary
5 shall, on a continuing basis, as appropriate to interpret
6 the peopling of America—

7 (1) evaluate, identify, and designate new na-
8 tional historic landmarks; and

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

12 (f) PUBLIC EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.—

13 (1) LINKAGES.—

14 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—On the basis of the
15 theme study, the Secretary may identify appro-
16 priate means for establishing linkages—

17 (i) between—

18 (I) regions, areas, districts, com-
19 munities, sites, buildings, structures,
20 objects, organizations, societies, and
21 cultures identified under subsections

22 (b) and (d); and

23 (II) groups of people; and

24 (ii) between—

1 (I) regions, areas, districts, com-
2 munities, sites, buildings, structures,
3 objects, organizations, societies, and
4 cultures identified under subsection
5 (b); and

6 (II) units of the National Park
7 System identified under subsection
8 (d).

9 (B) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the link-
10 ages shall be to maximize opportunities for pub-
11 lic education and scholarly research on the peo-
12 pling of America.

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

21 (3) EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES.—

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

25 (i) popular publications;

- 1 (ii) curriculum material such as the
2 Teaching with Historic Places program;
3 (iii) heritage tourism products such as
4 the National Register of Historic Places
5 Travel Itineraries program; and
6 (iv) oral history and ethnographic pro-
7 grams.

8 (B) COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS.—On the
9 basis of the theme study, the Secretary shall
10 implement cooperative programs to encourage
11 the preservation and interpretation of the peo-
12 pling of America.

13 **SEC. 5. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**

14 The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements
15 with educational institutions, professional associations, or
16 other entities knowledgeable about the peopling of
17 America—

- 18 (1) to prepare the theme study;
19 (2) to ensure that the theme study is prepared
20 in accordance with generally accepted scholarly
21 standards; and
22 (3) to promote cooperative arrangements and
23 programs relating to the peopling of America.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums

3 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

○