

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 441

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route of the War of 1812 British invasion of Maryland and Washington, District of Columbia, and the route of the American defense, for study for potential addition to the national trails system.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 23, 1999

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

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route of the War of 1812 British invasion of Maryland and Washington, District of Columbia, and the route of the American defense, for study for potential addition to the national trails system.

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 “Star-Spangled Banner
5 National Historic Trail Study Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the British invasion of Maryland and Wash-
2 ington, District of Columbia, during the War of
3 1812 marks a defining period in the history of our
4 Nation, the only occasion on which the United
5 States of America has been invaded by a foreign
6 power;

7 (2) the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic
8 Trail traces the route of the British naval attack on
9 the Chesapeake Flotilla at St. Leonard's Creek, the
10 landing of the British forces at Benedict, Maryland,
11 the American defeat at the Battle of Bladensburg,
12 the siege of the Nation's capital, Washington, Dis-
13 trict of Columbia (including the burning of the
14 United States Capitol and the White House), the
15 British expedition to and subsequent skirmishes
16 within the upper Chesapeake Bay, the route of the
17 American troops between Washington and Balti-
18 more, the Battle of North Point, and the ultimate
19 victory of the Americans at Fort McHenry, on Sep-
20 tember 14, 1814, where a distinguished Maryland
21 lawyer and poet, Francis Scott Key, wrote the words
22 that captured the essence of our national struggle
23 for independence, words that now serve as our na-
24 tional anthem, the Star-Spangled Banner; and

1 (3) the designation of this route as a national
2 historic trail—

3 (A) would serve as a reminder of the im-
4 portance of the concept of liberty to all who ex-
5 perience the Star-Spangled Banner National
6 Historic Trail; and

7 (B) would give long overdue recognition to
8 the patriots whose determination to stand firm
9 against enemy invasion and bombardment pre-
10 served this liberty for future generations of
11 Americans.

12 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF TRAIL FOR STUDY.**

13 Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16
14 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended—

15 (1) by redesignating paragraph (36) (as added
16 by section 3 of the El Camino Real Para Los Texas
17 Study Act of 1993 (107 Stat. 1497)) as paragraph
18 (37);

19 (2) by designating the paragraphs relating to
20 the Old Spanish Trail and the Great Western Scenic
21 Trail as paragraphs (38) and (39), respectively; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(40) STAR-SPANGLED BANNER NATIONAL HIS-
24 TORIC TRAIL.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Star-Spangled
2 Banner National Historic Trail, tracing the
3 War of 1812 route of the British naval attack
4 on the Chesapeake Flotilla at St. Leonard’s
5 Creek, the landing of the British forces at
6 Benedict, Maryland, the American defeat at the
7 Battle of Bladensburg, the siege of the Nation’s
8 capital, Washington, District of Columbia (in-
9 cluding the burning of the United States Cap-
10 itol and the White House), actions between the
11 British and American forces in the upper
12 Chesapeake Bay, the route of the American
13 troops between Washington and Baltimore, the
14 Battle of North Point, and the ultimate victory
15 of the Americans at Fort McHenry, on Septem-
16 ber 14, 1814.

17 “(B) AFFECTED AREAS.—The trail crosses
18 more than 6 Maryland counties, the city of Bal-
19 timore, and Washington, District of Colum-
20 bia.”.

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