

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 710

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2000

Referred to the Committee on Resources

AN ACT

To authorize a feasibility study on the preservation of certain Civil War battlefields along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail.

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 “Vicksburg Campaign
5 Trail Battlefields Preservation Act of 1999”.

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

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) there are situated along the Vicksburg
4 Campaign Trail in the States of Mississippi, Lou-
5 isiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee the sites of several
6 key Civil War battles;

7 (2) the battlefields along the Vicksburg Cam-
8 paign Trail are collectively of national significance in
9 the history of the Civil War; and

10 (3) the preservation of those battlefields would
11 vitally contribute to the understanding of the herit-
12 age of the United States.

13 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-
14 ize a feasibility study to determine what measures should
15 be taken to preserve certain Civil War battlefields along
16 the Vicksburg Campaign Trail.

17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

19 (1) CAMPAIGN TRAIL STATE.—The term “Cam-
20 paign Trail State” means each of the States of Mis-
21 sissippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee, in-
22 cluding political subdivisions of those States.

23 (2) CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD.—The term “Civil
24 War battlefield” includes the following sites (includ-
25 ing related structures adjacent to or thereon)—

1 (A) the battlefields at Helena and Arkan-
2 sas Post, Arkansas;

3 (B) Goodrich's Landing near Transylvania,
4 and sites in and around Lake Providence, East
5 Carroll Parish, Louisiana;

6 (C) the battlefield at Milliken's Bend,
7 Madison Parish, Louisiana;

8 (D) the route of Grant's march through
9 Louisiana from Milliken's Bend to Hard Times,
10 Madison and Tensas Parishes, Louisiana;

11 (E) the Winter Quarters at Tensas Parish,
12 Louisiana;

13 (F) Grant's landing site at Bruinsburg,
14 and the route of Grant's march from
15 Bruinsburg to Vicksburg, Claiborne, Hinds, and
16 Warren Counties, Mississippi;

17 (G) the battlefield at Port Gibson (includ-
18 ing Shaifer House, Bethel Church, and the
19 ruins of Windsor), Claiborne County, Mis-
20 sissippi;

21 (H) the battlefield at Grand Gulf, Clai-
22 borne County, Mississippi;

23 (I) the battlefield at Raymond (including
24 Waverly, (the Peyton House)), Hinds County,
25 Mississippi;

1 (J) the battlefield at Jackson, Hinds Coun-
2 ty, Mississippi;

3 (K) the Union siege lines around Jackson,
4 Hinds County, Mississippi;

5 (L) the battlefield at Champion Hill (in-
6 cluding Coker House), Hinds County, Mis-
7 sissippi;

8 (M) the battlefield at Big Black River
9 Bridge, Hinds and Warren Counties, Mis-
10 sissippi;

11 (N) the Union fortifications at Haynes
12 Bluff, Confederate fortifications at Snyder's
13 Bluff, and remnants of Federal exterior lines,
14 Warren County, Mississippi;

15 (O) the battlefield at Chickasaw Bayou,
16 Warren County, Mississippi;

17 (P) Pemberton's Headquarters at Warren
18 County, Mississippi;

19 (Q) the site of actions taken in the Mis-
20 sissippi Delta and Confederate fortifications
21 near Grenada, Grenada County, Mississippi;

22 (R) the site of the start of Greirson's Raid
23 and other related sites, LaGrange, Tennessee;
24 and

1 (S) any other sites considered appropriate
2 by the Secretary.

3 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
5 rector of the National Park Service.

6 **SEC. 4. FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after funds
8 are made available for this Act, the Secretary shall com-
9 plete a feasibility study to determine what measures
10 should be taken to preserve Civil War battlefields along
11 the Vicksburg Campaign Trail.

12 (b) COMPONENTS.—In completing the study, the Sec-
13 retary shall—

14 (1) review current National Park Service pro-
15 grams, policies and criteria to determine the most
16 appropriate means of ensuring the Civil War battle-
17 fields and associated natural, cultural, and historical
18 resources are preserved;

19 (2) evaluate options for the establishment of a
20 management entity for the Civil War battlefields
21 consisting of a unit of government or a private non-
22 profit organization that—

23 (A) administers and manages the Civil
24 War battlefields; and

25 (B) possesses the legal authority to—

1 (i) receive Federal funds and funds
2 from other units of government or other
3 organizations for use in managing the Civil
4 War battlefields;

5 (ii) disburse Federal funds to other
6 units of government or other nonprofit or-
7 ganizations for use in managing the Civil
8 War battlefields;

9 (iii) enter into agreements with the
10 Federal government, State governments, or
11 other units of government and nonprofit
12 organizations; and

13 (iv) acquire land or interests in land
14 by gift or devise, by purchase from a will-
15 ing seller using donated or appropriated
16 funds, or by donation;

17 (3) make recommendations to the Campaign
18 Trail States for the management, preservation, and
19 interpretation of the natural, cultural, and historical
20 resources of the Civil War battlefields;

21 (4) identify appropriate partnerships among
22 Federal, State, and local governments, regional enti-
23 ties, and the private sector, including nonprofit orga-
24 nizations and the organization known as “Friends of

1 the Vicksburg Campaign and Historic Trail”, in fur-
2 therance of the purposes of this Act; and

3 (5) recommend methods of ensuring continued
4 local involvement and participation in the manage-
5 ment, protection, and development of the Civil War
6 battlefields.

7 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
8 of completion of the study under this section, the Sec-
9 retary shall submit a report describing the findings of the
10 study to—

11 (1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
12 sources of the Senate; and

13 (2) the Committee on Resources of the House
14 of Representatives.

15 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
16 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
17 \$1,500,000.

Passed the Senate November 19, 1999.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.