

Union Calendar No. 156

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1776

[Report No. 107-256]

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area in west Houston, Texas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

OCTOBER 30, 2001

Additional sponsors: Mr. BENTSEN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. LAMPSON

OCTOBER 30, 2001

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 9, 2001]

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area in west Houston, Texas.

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 “Buffalo Bayou National*
5 *Heritage Area Study Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDY REGARDING BUF-**
7 **FALO BAYOU, TEXAS.**

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

9 (1) *The area beginning at Shepherd Drive in*
10 *west Houston, Texas, and extending to the Turning*
11 *Basin, commonly referred to as the “Buffalo Bayou”,*
12 *made a unique contribution to the cultural, political,*
13 *and industrial development of the United States.*

14 (2) *The Buffalo Bayou is distinctive as the first*
15 *spine of modern industrial development in Texas and*
16 *one of the first along the Gulf of Mexico coast.*

17 (3) *The Buffalo Bayou played a significant role*
18 *in the struggle for Texas independence.*

19 (4) *The Buffalo Bayou developed a prosperous*
20 *and productive shipping industry that survives today.*

21 (5) *The Buffalo Bayou led in the development of*
22 *Texas’ petrochemical industry that made Houston the*
23 *center of the early oil boom in America.*

1 (6) *The Buffalo Bayou developed a sophisticated*
2 *shipping system, leading to the formation of the mod-*
3 *ern day Houston Ship Channel.*

4 (7) *The Buffalo Bayou developed a significant*
5 *industrial base, and served as the focal point for the*
6 *new city of Houston.*

7 (8) *There is a longstanding commitment by the*
8 *Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Inc., to complete the Buf-*
9 *falo Bayou Trail along the 12-mile segment of the*
10 *Buffalo Bayou.*

11 (9) *There is a need for assistance for the preser-*
12 *vation and promotion of the significance of the Buf-*
13 *falo Bayou as a system for transportation, industry,*
14 *commerce, and immigration.*

15 (10) *The Department of the Interior is respon-*
16 *sible for protecting the Nation's cultural and histor-*
17 *ical resources. There are significant examples of such*
18 *resources within the Buffalo Bayou region to merit*
19 *the involvement of the Federal Government in the de-*
20 *velopment of programs and projects, in cooperation*
21 *with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Inc., the State*
22 *of Texas, and other local and governmental entities,*
23 *to adequately conserve, protect, and interpret this her-*
24 *itage for future generations, while providing opportu-*
25 *nities for education and revitalization.*

1 (b) *STUDY.*—

2 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall, in con-*
3 *sultation with the State of Texas, the City of Hous-*
4 *ton, and other appropriate organizations, carry out a*
5 *study regarding the suitability and feasibility of es-*
6 *tablishing the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area*
7 *in Houston, Texas.*

8 (2) *CONTENTS.*—*The study shall include anal-*
9 *ysis and documentation regarding whether the Study*
10 *Area—*

11 (A) *has an assemblage of natural, historic,*
12 *and cultural resources that together represent*
13 *distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy*
14 *of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and*
15 *continuing use, and are best managed through*
16 *partnerships among public and private entities*
17 *and by combining diverse and sometimes non-*
18 *contiguous resources and active communities;*

19 (B) *reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and*
20 *folklife that are a valuable part of the national*
21 *story;*

22 (C) *provides outstanding opportunities to*
23 *conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic fea-*
24 *tures;*

1 (D) provides outstanding recreational and
2 educational opportunities;

3 (E) contains resources important to the
4 identified theme or themes of the Study Area
5 that retain a degree of integrity capable of sup-
6 porting interpretation;

7 (F) includes residents, business interests,
8 nonprofit organizations, and local and State
9 governments that are involved in the planning,
10 have developed a conceptual financial plan that
11 outlines the roles for all participants, including
12 the Federal Government, and have demonstrated
13 support for the concept of a national heritage
14 area;

15 (G) has a potential management entity to
16 work in partnership with residents, business in-
17 terests, nonprofit organizations, and local and
18 State governments to develop a national heritage
19 area consistent with continued local and State
20 economic activity; and

21 (H) has a conceptual boundary map that is
22 supported by the public.

23 (c) *BOUNDARIES OF THE STUDY AREA.*—The Study
24 Area shall be comprised of sites in Houston, Texas, in an
25 area roughly bounded by Shepherd Drive and extending to

1 *the Turning Basin, commonly referred to as the “Buffalo*
2 *Bayou”.*

3 *(d) SUBMISSION OF STUDY RESULTS.—Not later than*
4 *3 years after funds are first made available for this section,*
5 *the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources*
6 *of the House of Representatives and the Committee on En-*
7 *ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describ-*
8 *ing the results of the study.*

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