

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 271

To convey certain submerged lands to the Government of the Virgin Islands,  
and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2005

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To convey certain submerged lands to the Government of  
the Virgin Islands, 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. CONVEYANCE OF SUBMERGED LANDS TO THE**  
4 **GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,  
6 all of the right, title, and interest of the United States  
7 in and to submerged lands in the area between the island  
8 of Saint Croix and the islands of Saint Thomas and Saint  
9 John is conveyed to the Government of the Virgin Islands

1 to be administered in trust for the benefit of the people  
2 thereof.

3 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

4 (1) AREA BETWEEN THE ISLAND OF SAINT  
5 CROIX AND THE ISLANDS OF SAINT THOMAS AND  
6 SAINT JOHN.—The term “area between the island of  
7 Saint Croix and the islands of Saint Thomas and  
8 Saint John” means the area that is—

9 (A) outside of the area conveyed to the  
10 Virgin Islands by section 1 of Public Law 93–  
11 435 (48 U.S.C. 1705);

12 (B) north of Saint Croix;

13 (C) south of Saint Thomas and Saint  
14 John;

15 (D) east of the line running from the west-  
16 ernmost point on the coastline of Saint Croix at  
17 mean high tide to the westernmost point on the  
18 coastline of Saint Thomas at mean high tide;  
19 and

20 (E) west of the line running from the east-  
21 ernmost point on the coastline of Saint Croix at  
22 mean high tide to the easternmost point on the  
23 coastline of Saint John at mean high tide.

24 (2) SAINT CROIX, SAINT THOMAS, SAINT  
25 JOHN.—The terms “Saint Croix”, “Saint Thomas”,

1 and “Saint John” mean the islands of Saint Croix,  
2 Saint Thomas, and Saint John, respectively, in the  
3 United States Virgin Islands.

4 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE**  
5 **VIRGIN WATERS.**

6 For purposes of the laws of the United States, and  
7 except as otherwise provided by international law or any  
8 international agreement in force for the United States, the  
9 territorial waters of the United States Virgin Islands shall  
10 consist of all waters in the belt of the seas measured from  
11 the line of ordinary low water along that portion of the  
12 coast which is in direct contact with the open sea and the  
13 line marking the seaward limit of inland waters, and ex-  
14 tending seaward a distance of 9 miles.

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