

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1627

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study to evaluate resources along the coastal region of the State of Delaware and to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Park System in Delaware.

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 “Delaware National
5 Coastal Special Resources Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (re-
3 ferred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a
4 special resources study of the national significance, suit-
5 ability, and feasibility of including sites in the coastal re-
6 gion of the State of Delaware in the National Park Sys-
7 tem.

8 (b) INCLUSION OF SITES IN THE NATIONAL PARK
9 SYSTEM.—The study under subsection (a) shall include an
10 analysis and any recommendations of the Secretary con-
11 cerning the suitability and feasibility of designating 1 or
12 more of the sites along the Delaware coast, including Fort
13 Christina, as a unit of the National Park System that re-
14 lates to the themes described in section 3.

15 (c) STUDY GUIDELINES.—In conducting the study
16 authorized under subsection (a), the Secretary shall use
17 the criteria for the study of areas for potential inclusion
18 in the National Park System contained in section 8 of
19 Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5).

20 (d) CONSULTATION.—In preparing and conducting
21 the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult
22 with—

- 23 (1) the State of Delaware;
24 (2) the coastal region communities; and
25 (3) the general public.

1 **SEC. 3. THEMES.**

2 The study authorized under section 2 shall evaluate
3 sites along the coastal region of the State of Delaware that
4 relate to—

5 (1) the history of indigenous peoples, which
6 would explore the history of Native American tribes
7 of Delaware, such as the Nanticoke and Lenni
8 Lenape;

9 (2) the colonization and establishment of the
10 frontier, which would chronicle the first European
11 settlers in the Delaware Valley who built fortifica-
12 tions for the protection of settlers, such as Fort
13 Christina;

14 (3) the founding of a nation, which would docu-
15 ment the contributions of Delaware to the develop-
16 ment of our constitutional republic;

17 (4) industrial development, which would inves-
18 tigate the exploitation of water power in Delaware
19 with the mill development on the Brandywine River;

20 (5) transportation, which would explore how
21 water served as the main transportation link, con-
22 necting Colonial Delaware with England, Europe,
23 and other colonies;

24 (6) coastal defense, which would document the
25 collection of fortifications spaced along the river and

1 bay from Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island to
 2 Fort Miles near Lewes;

3 (7) the last stop to freedom, which would detail
 4 the role Delaware has played in the history of the
 5 Underground Railroad network; and

6 (8) the coastal environment, which would exam-
 7 ine natural resources of Delaware that provide re-
 8 source-based recreational opportunities such as crab-
 9 bing, fishing, swimming, and boating.

10 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

11 Not later than 1 year after funds are made available
 12 to carry out this Act under section 5, the Secretary shall
 13 submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
 14 sources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources
 15 of the House of Representatives a report containing the
 16 findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study
 17 conducted under section 2.

18 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
 20 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

Passed the Senate November 16, 2005.

Attest:

Secretary.

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