

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6730

To establish the Fort Presque Isle National Historic Site in the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. MURTHA, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. DENT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. WALSH of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Fort Presque Isle National Historic Site
in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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. FORT PRESQUE ISLE NATIONAL HISTORIC**
4 **SITE, PENNSYLVANIA.**

5 (a) SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.—

6 (1) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as
7 the “Fort Presque Isle National Historic Site Act of
8 2008”.

1 (2) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the fol-
2 lowing:

3 (A) Fort Presque Isle was a frontier out-
4 post located on Garrison Hill in the area of
5 present-day Erie, Pennsylvania, which was the
6 site of the American installations built in 1795
7 and 1796 and in the War of 1812.

8 (B) General Anthony Wayne was a Revolu-
9 tionary War hero who served under General
10 George Washington and, at one point, was com-
11 manding general of the United States Army.
12 He first arrived in the area of Presque Isle in
13 1786.

14 (C) Legend has it that General Wayne was
15 nicknamed “Mad” by his troops, not for being
16 rash or foolish, but for his leadership and brav-
17 ery on and off the battlefield.

18 (D) The original blockhouse of Fort
19 Presque Isle was built in 1795 by 200 Federal
20 troops from General Wayne’s army, under the
21 direction of Captain John Grubb. It was the
22 first blockhouse used as part of a defensive sys-
23 tem established to counter Native American
24 uprisings. It was also used during the War of
25 1812.

1 (E) General Wayne was stricken ill at Fort
2 Presque Isle and died there in 1796. At his re-
3 quest, his body was buried under the flagpole of
4 the northwest blockhouse of the fort.

5 (F) The original blockhouse of Fort
6 Presque Isle burned in 1852, and the existing
7 structure was built by the Commonwealth of
8 Pennsylvania in 1880 as a memorial to General
9 Wayne.

10 (G) The Pennsylvania Historical and Mu-
11 seum Commission has recognized the recon-
12 structed blockhouse as eligible for placement on
13 the National Register of Historic Places.

14 (3) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section
15 are the following:

16 (A) To provide for reconstruction of the
17 frontier fort at Presque Isle for the benefit, in-
18 spiration, and education of the people of the
19 United States.

20 (B) To preserve the original grave site of
21 General “Mad” Anthony Wayne at Fort
22 Presque Isle.

23 (C) To broaden understanding of the his-
24 torical significance of Fort Presque Isle.

25 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term “historic site”
2 means the Fort Presque Isle National Historic Site
3 established by subsection (c).

4 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of the Interior.

6 (c) ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT PRESQUE ISLE NA-
7 TIONAL HISTORIC SITE.—

8 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established as
9 a unit of the National Park System the Fort
10 Presque Isle National Historic Site in Erie, Pennsyl-
11 vania.

12 (2) DESCRIPTION.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The historic site shall
14 consist of land and improvements comprising
15 the historic location of Fort Presque Isle, in-
16 cluding the existing blockhouse replica at that
17 location, as depicted on a map entitled
18 “_____”, numbered _____ and dated
19 _____, comprising approximately _____
20 acres.

21 (B) MAP AND BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.—

22 The map referred to in subparagraph (A) and
23 accompanying boundary description shall be on
24 file and available for public inspection in the of-
25 fice of the Director of the National Park Serv-

1 ice and any other office of the National Park
2 Service that the Secretary determines to be an
3 appropriate location for filing the map and
4 boundary description.

5 (d) ADMINISTRATION OF THE HISTORIC SITE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall admin-
7 ister the historic site in accordance with this section
8 and the provisions of law generally applicable to
9 units of the National Park System, including the Act
10 of August 25, 1916 (commonly known as the Na-
11 tional Park Service Organic Act; 16 U.S.C. 1 et
12 seq.), and the Act of August 21, 1935 (commonly
13 known as the Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiq-
14 uities Act; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

15 (2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—To further
16 the purposes of this section, the Secretary may enter
17 into a cooperative agreement with any interested in-
18 dividual, public or private agency, organization, or
19 institution.

20 (3) TECHNICAL AND PRESERVATION ASSIST-
21 ANCE.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
23 provide to any eligible person described in sub-
24 paragraph (B) technical assistance for the pres-
25 ervation of historic structures of, the mainte-

1 nance of the cultural landscape of, and local
2 preservation planning for, the historic site.

3 (B) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—The eligible per-
4 sons described in this subparagraph are—

5 (i) an owner of real property within
6 the boundary of the historic site, as de-
7 scribed in subsection (c)(2); and

8 (ii) any interested individual, agency,
9 organization, or institution that has en-
10 tered into an agreement with the Secretary
11 pursuant to paragraph (2) of this sub-
12 section.

13 (e) ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.—The Sec-
14 retary may acquire by donation, exchange, or purchase
15 with funds made available by donation or appropriation,
16 such lands or interests in lands as may be necessary to
17 allow for the interpretation, preservation, or restoration
18 of the historic site.

19 (f) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the last day
21 of the third full fiscal year beginning after the date
22 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, in con-
23 sultation with the officials described in paragraph
24 (2), prepare a general management plan for the his-
25 toric site.

1 (2) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the general
2 management plan, the Secretary shall consult with
3 an appropriate official of each appropriate political
4 subdivision of the State of Pennsylvania that has ju-
5 risdiction over all or a portion of the historic site.

6 (3) SUBMISSION OF PLAN TO CONGRESS.—
7 Upon the completion of the general management
8 plan, the Secretary shall submit a copy of the plan
9 to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
10 of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Re-
11 sources of the House of Representatives.

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