

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7550

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to inventory Confederate commemorative works on certain Federal lands, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2020

Mr. MCEACHIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to inventory Confederate commemorative works on certain Federal lands, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Confederate Com-  
5 memorative Works Inventory and Joint Resource Study  
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The American Civil War was fought be-  
4 tween 1861 and 1865.

5 (2) As early as 1864, efforts were underway to  
6 preserve places that had been the location of pivotal  
7 battles during the Civil War, even before surrender  
8 occurred.

9 (3) The National Park Service preserves  
10 unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and  
11 values of the National Park System for the enjoy-  
12 ment, education, and inspiration of this and future  
13 generations, including sites dedicated to the inter-  
14 pretation of the American Civil War.

15 (4) The National Park Service, the Department  
16 of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense  
17 administer public lands that are responsible for Con-  
18 federate commemorative works. Public lands play a  
19 vital role in capturing the historical and cultural sto-  
20 ries that shape the Nation's history, and the lands  
21 administered by the National Park Service, the De-  
22 partment of Veterans Affairs, and the Department  
23 of Defense help facilitate the national narrative of  
24 the American Civil War.

25 (5) There are 147 national cemeteries in the  
26 United States. Fourteen are maintained by the De-

1 department of the Interior, through the National Park  
2 Service. The Department of Veterans Affairs,  
3 through the National Cemetery Administration, ad-  
4 ministers 131 cemeteries. The Department of De-  
5 fense, through the Army, administers 2 cemeteries.

6 (6) The Department of Defense has jurisdiction  
7 over—

8 (A) 10 major United States military instal-  
9 lations named in honor of Confederate military  
10 leaders; and

11 (B) Navy ships named after Confederate  
12 victories.

13 (7) Given the significance these public lands  
14 and works play in our Nation’s education and reflec-  
15 tion of the American Civil War, a full inventory and  
16 special resource study are necessary to locate Con-  
17 federate commemorative works and help evaluate  
18 their suitability as resources for the interpretation of  
19 the American Civil War.

20 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

21 For the purposes of this Act:

22 (1) CONFEDERATE COMMEMORATIVE WORK.—

23 The term “Confederate commemorative work”—

1 (A) means any work that mentions individ-  
2 uals or units who participated or served in the  
3 advancement of Confederate efforts; and

4 (B) includes the Confederate flag and any  
5 other symbols or signage that honors the Con-  
6 federacy, including any monument, statue, or  
7 plaque that honors a Confederate leader, sol-  
8 dier, or supporter of the Confederate States of  
9 America.

10 (2) CONFEDERATE FLAG.—The term “Confed-  
11 erate flag”—

12 (A) means the national flag of the Confed-  
13 eracy from 1861 through 1865; and

14 (B) includes the Stars and Bars, the  
15 Stainless Banner, the Blood-Stained Banner,  
16 the Confederate States Navy flag, the battle  
17 flag of the Army of Northern Virginia, any  
18 State or regimental flag as such flag was de-  
19 picted from 1861 through 1865, and modern  
20 representations of the Confederate battle flag.

21 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
22 the Director of the National Park Service.

23 (4) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-  
24 retary concerned” means the Secretary of the Inte-  
25 rior, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of

1 Veterans Affairs, each in reference to Federal land  
2 under the jurisdiction of that Secretary.

3 **SEC. 4. INVENTORY AND RESOURCE STUDY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each Secretary concerned shall—

5 (1) conduct a full inventory of Confederate  
6 commemorative works under the administrative ju-  
7 risdiction of that Secretary; and

8 (2) submit a copy of that inventory to the Di-  
9 rector.

10 (b) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—Using the inventories re-  
11 ceived pursuant to subsection (a), the Director shall con-  
12 duct a special resource study that—

13 (1) examines works, commemorating and inter-  
14 preting the Civil War, the commemoration thereof,  
15 the soldiers, people on the home front and battle  
16 lines, and the related locations in the United States  
17 from 1861 through 1865; and

18 (2) identifies—

19 (A) a historical assessment, based on ex-  
20 tensive research, of each inventoried Confed-  
21 erate commemorative work;

22 (B) an evaluation of the suitability and  
23 feasibility of retaining the Confederate com-  
24 memorative work;

1           (C) the identification of properties that  
2           could meet criteria for listing in the National  
3           Register of Historic Places or criteria for des-  
4           ignation as National Historic Landmarks or if  
5           the Confederate commemorative work is already  
6           on the or part of, another designation or dis-  
7           trict;

8           (D) an evaluation of relevant historical re-  
9           search on, education about, interpretation of,  
10          and public awareness of the Confederate com-  
11          memorative work; and

12          (E) any other matters that the Director  
13          determines to be appropriate for this study.

14          (c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after funds are  
15          made available for the study, the Secretary of the Interior  
16          shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of  
17          the House of Representatives and the Committee on En-  
18          ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report con-  
19          taining the findings of the study required under subsection  
20          (b) and any related recommendations.

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