

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2827

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of African American burial grounds, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “African American Bur-
3 ial Grounds Study Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **BURIAL GROUND.**—The term “burial
7 ground” means any natural or prepared physical lo-
8 cation, whether originally below, on, or above the
9 surface of the earth, into which human remains are
10 deposited as a part of the death rite or ceremony of
11 a culture.

12 (2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
14 rector of the National Park Service.

15 **SEC. 3. AFRICAN AMERICAN BURIAL GROUNDS STUDY.**

16 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall conduct a
17 study of ways to identify, interpret, preserve, and record
18 unmarked, previously abandoned, underserved, or other
19 burial grounds relating to the historic African American
20 experience.

21 (b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In conducting the study under
22 subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider—

23 (1) ways to engage with descendant, local, and
24 other communities historically associated with identi-
25 fied burial grounds by geography, genealogy, or cul-
26 ture;

1 (2) appropriate processes to identify locations
 2 of unmarked and unrecorded African American bur-
 3 ial grounds with appropriate consideration for the
 4 privacy and safety of the burial grounds;

5 (3) alternatives for providing in a public data-
 6 base, as appropriate, the locations of, and informa-
 7 tion on, recorded and unrecorded African American
 8 burial grounds;

9 (4) alternatives for commemorating and inter-
 10 preting African American burial grounds; and

11 (5) best practices for preserving burial ground
 12 landscapes and caring for artifacts.

13 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
 14 on which funds are first made available to carry out the
 15 study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to
 16 the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
 17 Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the
 18 House of Representatives a report describing—

19 (1) the findings of the study; and

20 (2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

Passed the Senate December 20, 2020.

Attest:

Secretary.

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