

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4656

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing Florida Springs National Park in Central and North Florida, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2025

Mr. FINE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing Florida Springs National Park in Central and North Florida, 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 “Path to Florida
5 Springs National Park Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

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

3 (2) STUDY AREA.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “study area”
5 means approximately 2,800 square miles of
6 land in Florida located south of Jacksonville,
7 north of Orlando, and east of Gainesville.

8 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “study area”
9 includes—

10 (i) Ocala National Forest;

11 (ii) Lake George, Relay, Tiger Bay,
12 Seminole Forest (Lake Tracy Unit), Rock
13 Springs Run, Marshall Swamp, Ocala
14 (Lake Delancy and Church Lake Units),
15 Belmore, Camp Blanding, Ocklawaha
16 River, and Grove Park Wilderness Man-
17 agement Areas;

18 (iii) Lake George, Heart Island, Rice
19 Creek, Hull Swamp, Crescent Lake,
20 Lochloosa Wildlife, Clark Bay, Silver
21 Springs Forest, Newnans Lake, Murphy
22 Creek, Horseshoe Point, Moses Creek, and
23 Pellicer Creek Conservation Areas;

24 (iv) Lake George, Tiger Bay, Semi-
25 nole, Etoniah Creek, Jennings, and

1 Matanzas State Forests, and Indian Lake
2 State Forest Campground;

3 (v) Lower Wekiva River Preserve,
4 Dunns Creek, Haw Creek Preserve, Paynes
5 Prairie Preserve, De León Springs, Blue
6 Spring, and Faver Dykes State Parks;

7 (vi) Longleaf Pine Preserve,
8 Ocklawaha Prairie Restoration Area, Deep
9 Creek Preserve, Paynes Prairie Preserve
10 State Park, and Princess Place; and

11 (vii) Lake Disston Park.

12 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a
13 special resource study of the study area.

14 (c) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under sub-
15 section (b), the Secretary shall—

16 (1) evaluate the national significance of the
17 study area;

18 (2) determine the suitability and feasibility of
19 designating the study area as a unit of the National
20 Park System;

21 (3) consider other alternatives for preservation,
22 protection, and interpretation of the study area by
23 the Federal Government, State or local government
24 entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

1 (4) consult with interested Federal agencies,
2 State or local governmental entities, private and
3 nonprofit organizations, or any other interested indi-
4 viduals; and

5 (5) identify cost estimates for any Federal ac-
6 quisition, development, interpretation, operation, and
7 maintenance associated with the alternatives de-
8 scribed in paragraphs (2) and (3).

9 (d) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under
10 subsection (b) shall be conducted in accordance with sec-
11 tion 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

12 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
13 on which funds are first made available to carry out the
14 study under subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit to
15 the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
17 Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

18 (1) the results of the study; and

19 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
20 Secretary.

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