

Calendar No. 207

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 277**

To release a Federal reversionary interest and convey mineral interests in
Chester County, Tennessee, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2025

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY) introduced the following
bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry

OCTOBER 27, 2025

Reported by Mr. BOOZMAN, without amendment

A BILL

To release a Federal reversionary interest and convey mineral
interests in Chester County, Tennessee, 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. CHESTER COUNTY REVERSIONARY AND MIN-**

4 **ERAL INTERESTS RELEASE.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) within the parcel of State forest land located in Henderson, Chester County, Tennessee, a recent survey by the State determined that Bethel Baptist Church is encroaching on State-owned land in Chickasaw State Forest by approximately 19 inches;

(2) the parcel described in paragraph (1) was conveyed to the State by the Department of Agriculture, which retained a reversionary interest in the land; and

(3) it is necessary to release the interests of the United States in and to that land to resolve the encroachment issue described in paragraph (1).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(2) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Tennessee.

(3) STATE FOREST LAND.—The term “State forest land” means the approximately 0.62-acre parcel of land in Chickasaw State Forest that is identified as “State Forest Land” on the map prepared by the Forest Service entitled “State Forest Land Detail Map” and dated December 13, 2019.

(c) RELEASE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—

1 (1) RELEASE.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall re-
3 lease, without consideration, the reversionary
4 interest described in paragraph (2).

5 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding
6 any requirement for a grant of land under sec-
7 tion 32(c) of The Bankhead-Jones Farm Ten-
8 ant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)) or any other provi-
9 sion of law, the release under subparagraph (A)
10 shall occur without any appraisal, other report,
11 or environmental or similar review being under-
12 taken.

13 (2) DESCRIPTION OF REVERSIONARY INTER-
14 EST.—The reversionary interest referred to in para-
15 graph (1)(A) is the reversionary interest of the
16 United States in and to the State forest land that—

17 (A) takes effect if the State forest land
18 ceases to be used for public purposes; and

19 (B) was created by the deed—

20 (i) granting from the United States to
21 the State the State forest land;

22 (ii) dated August 12, 1955; and

23 (iii) registered on pages 588 through
24 591 of book 48 of the record of deeds for
25 Chester County, Tennessee.

1 (3) PAYMENT OF COSTS.—As a condition of the
 2 release under paragraph (1), the State shall pay to
 3 the United States any administrative costs incurred
 4 by the United States in carrying out the release.

5 (d) CONVEYANCE OF MINERAL RIGHTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any re-
 7 quirement for the conveyance of Federal mineral in-
 8 terests under section 209 of the Federal Land Policy
 9 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1719),
 10 part 2720 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations
 11 (or successor regulations), or any other provision of
 12 law, the Secretary shall convey to the State, by quit-
 13 claim deed, without warranty, and without consider-
 14 ation, the mineral interest in the State forest land
 15 owned by the United States.

16 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding any
 17 other provision of law, the conveyance under para-
 18 graph (1) shall occur—

19 (A) without any exploratory program as to
 20 the character of the mineral deposits in the
 21 land;

22 (B) without any findings as to known min-
 23 eral values and mineral development of the
 24 land; and

1 (C) without any appraisal, other report, or
2 environmental or similar review being under-
3 taken by the Secretary.

4 (3) PAYMENT OF COSTS.—As a condition of the
5 conveyance under paragraph (1), the State shall pay
6 to the United States any administrative costs in-
7 curred by the United States in carrying out the con-
8 veyance.

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