

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7912

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing a network of locations associated with lynchings in the vicinity of Memphis, Tennessee, as a unit of the National Park System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 31, 2022

Mr. COHEN (for himself, Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MFUME, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia) 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 a network of locations associated with lynchings in the vicinity of Memphis, Tennessee, as a unit of the National Park System.

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 “Evaluating Lynching
5 Locations (ELL) for National Park Sites Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF LYNCHING LOCA-**
2 **TIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a
4 special resource study of the study area.

5 (b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the special resource
6 study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

7 (1) evaluate the national significance of the
8 study area;

9 (2) determine the suitability and feasibility of
10 designating the study area as a unit of the National
11 Park System;

12 (3) consider other alternatives for preservation,
13 protection, and interpretation of the study area by
14 the Federal Government, State or local government
15 entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

16 (4) consult with interested Federal agencies,
17 State or local governmental entities, private and
18 nonprofit organizations, or any other interested per-
19 sons; and

20 (5) identify cost estimates for any Federal ac-
21 quisition, development, interpretation, operation, and
22 maintenance associated with the alternatives.

23 (c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under
24 subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with sec-
25 tion 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

1 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
2 on which funds are made available to carry out this Act,
3 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural
4 Resources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
5 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
6 a report that describes—

7 (1) the results of the study; and

8 (2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

9 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

12 (2) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”
13 means sites within approximately 100 miles of Mem-
14 phis, Tennessee, at which lynchings took place, in-
15 cluding, but not limited to, the lynching sites of—

16 (A) Wash Henley in 1869;

17 (B) Christopher Bender and Bud Whitfield
18 in 1868;

19 (C) Thomas Moss, Will Stewart, and Cal-
20 vin McDowell in 1892 during the event referred
21 to as “The People’s Grocery Lynchings”;

22 (D) Lee Walker in 1893;

23 (E) Warner Williams, Daniel Hawkins,
24 Robert Haynes, Edward Hall, John Hayes, and
25 Graham White in 1894;

- 1 (F) Ell Persons in 1917;
- 2 (G) Jesse Lee Bond in 1939; and
- 3 (H) Elbert Williams in 1940.

