

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7471

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land in Virginia as the Coastal Virginia National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 7, 2022

Mrs. LURIA (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. McEACHIN) 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 study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land in Virginia as the Coastal Virginia National Heritage Area, 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 “Coastal Virginia Na-
5 tional Heritage Area Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term “Heritage
2 Area” means the Coastal Virginia National Heritage
3 Area.

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

6 (3) COMMONWEALTH.—The term “Common-
7 wealth” means the Commonwealth of Virginia.

8 (4) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”
9 means—

10 (A) the First Landings Sites and sur-
11 rounding communities within the Common-
12 wealth of Virginia, including Fort Monroe and
13 Cape Henry;

14 (B) the Virginia Barrier Islands and
15 Southern Delmarva Peninsula;

16 (C) the Peninsula between the York and
17 James Rivers, including the greater Historic
18 Triangle region; and

19 (D) any other areas in the Commonwealth
20 that—

21 (i) have heritage aspects that are
22 similar to the areas described in subpara-
23 graphs (A), (B), and (C); and

1 (ii) are adjacent to, or in the vicinity
2 of, the areas described in those subpara-
3 graphs.

4 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
6 with State and local organizations and governmental agen-
7 cies, Tribal Governments, nonprofit organizations, and
8 other appropriate entities, shall conduct a study to assess
9 the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area
10 as a National Heritage Area, to be known as the “Coastal
11 Virginia National Heritage Area”.

12 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study conducted under
13 subsection (a) shall include analysis, documentation, and
14 determinations on whether the study area—

15 (1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and
16 cultural resources that—

17 (A) represent distinctive aspects of the di-
18 verse people and cultures of the United States;

19 (B) are worthy of recognition, conserva-
20 tion, interpretation, and continuing use; and

21 (C) would be best managed—

22 (i) through partnerships among public
23 and private entities; and

1 (ii) by linking diverse and sometimes
2 noncontiguous resources and active com-
3 munities;

4 (2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and
5 folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the
6 United States;

7 (3) provides outstanding opportunities—

8 (A) to conserve natural, historic, cultural,
9 or scenic features; and

10 (B) for recreation and education;

11 (4) contains resources that—

12 (A) are important to any identified themes
13 of the study area; and

14 (B) retain a degree of integrity capable of
15 supporting interpretation;

16 (5) includes residents, business interests, non-
17 profit organizations, and State, local, and Tribal
18 governments, and other appropriate entities that—

19 (A) are involved in the planning of the
20 Heritage Area;

21 (B) have developed a conceptual financial
22 plan that outlines the roles of all participants in
23 the Heritage Area, including the Federal Gov-
24 ernment; and

1 (C) have demonstrated support for the des-
2 ignation of the Heritage Area;

3 (6) has a potential management entity to work
4 in partnership with the individuals and entities de-
5 scribed in paragraph (5) to develop the Heritage
6 Area while encouraging State and local economic ac-
7 tivity; and

8 (7) has a conceptual boundary map that is sup-
9 ported by the public.

10 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

11 Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds
12 are first made available to carry out this Act, the Sec-
13 retary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Re-
14 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
15 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
16 a report that describes—

17 (1) the findings of the study under section 3;
18 and

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

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