

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 307

To provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2019

Mr. HICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COLE, Mr. COOK, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIND, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LONG, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SIREs, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. TONKO, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. COLLINS of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, 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 “Preserving America’s
3 Battlefields Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION ACT OF**
5 **2002.**

6 Section 2 of the Civil War Battlefield Preservation
7 Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–359) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 **“SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

10 “(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

11 “(1) Battlefields of the American Revolution,
12 War of 1812 and the Civil War—

13 “(A) provide a means for the people of the
14 United States to understand our Nation’s tur-
15 bulent first century;

16 “(B) serve as living memorials to those
17 who fought and sacrificed in these conflicts to
18 establish and maintain our freedom and liberty;

19 “(C) serve as training grounds for our Na-
20 tion’s Armed Forces; and

21 “(D) serve as heritage tourism destina-
22 tions, generating revenue for local economies.

23 “(2) According to the Report on the Nation’s
24 Civil War Battlefields, prepared by the National
25 Park Service and updated in 2010, of the 383 Civil

1 War battlefields identified as national preservation
2 priorities—

3 “(A) only at 31 battlefields is more than
4 half of the surviving landscape permanently
5 protected;

6 “(B) at 227 battlefields, less than half of
7 the surviving landscape is permanently pro-
8 tected;

9 “(C) 65 battlefields have no protection at
10 all; and

11 “(D) 113 battlefields have been severely
12 hampered by development since the Civil War
13 or are on the verge of being overwhelmed.

14 “(3) According to the 2007 Report to Congress
15 on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War
16 and War of 1812 Sites in the United States, pre-
17 pared by the National Park Service, of the 243 prin-
18 cipal Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battle-
19 fields identified as national preservation priorities—

20 “(A) almost 70 percent lie within urban
21 areas as denoted in the 2000 U.S. Census;

22 “(B) 141 are lost or extremely fragmented,
23 with residential and commercial development
24 being the chief threats;

1 “(C) 100 other battlefields retain signifi-
2 cant features and lands from the period of bat-
3 tle, although on average these battlefields retain
4 only 37 percent of the original historic scene;

5 “(D) of these 100 surviving but diminished
6 battle landscapes, 82 are partially owned and
7 protected by public and nonprofit stewards, al-
8 though the extent of that protection varies from
9 site to site;

10 “(E) 18 are without any legal protection;

11 “(F) the condition of two battlefields is un-
12 known, with additional research and survey
13 being required to determine their exact location
14 and condition; and

15 “(G) the paucity of existing battlefield
16 landscapes necessitates preservation and main-
17 tenance of what precious little remains today.

18 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

19 “(1) to act quickly and proactively to preserve
20 and protect nationally significant battlefields of the
21 American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War
22 through conservation easements and fee-simple pur-
23 chases of those battlefields from willing sellers; and

24 “(2) to create partnerships among State and
25 local governments, regional entities, and the private

1 sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor
2 experience at nationally significant battlefields of the
3 American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War.”.

4 **SEC. 3. PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE.**

5 Section 308103(f) of title 54, United States Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
8 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to pro-
9 vide grants under this section \$20,000,000 for each fiscal
10 year through 2028, of which not more than 10 percent
11 may be used each fiscal year as follows:

12 “(1) Not more than \$1,000,000 for projects
13 and programs that modernize battlefield interpretive
14 and educational assets through the deployment of
15 technology, disbursed through the competitive grant
16 process to non-profit organizations.

17 “(2) Not more than \$1,000,000 for grants to
18 organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the
19 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from
20 taxation under section 501(a) of such Code to be
21 used for projects that restore day-of-battle condi-
22 tions on land preserved through Battlefield Land
23 Acquisition Grant Program funds.”.

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