

50TH CONGRESS
1st Session

H. R. 791

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Rehoboth-Ascatague National Seashore in the States of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BLAND

JANUARY 22, 1907

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands

H. R. 791

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 10, 1947

Mr. BLAND introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Public Lands

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Rehoboth-Assateague National Seashore in the States of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, 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 That when title to all the lands along the Atlantic Ocean
4 within an area of not exceeding seventy-five thousand acres
5 lying between Cape Henlopen, Delaware, and fishing point
6 on the south end of Assateague Island, Virginia, to be desig-
7 nated by the Secretary of the Interior in the exercise of
8 his discretion, together with title to such adjacent islands
9 and submerged lands as he shall deem necessary or desir-
10 able, shall have been vested in the United States, the said

1 area shall be, and is hereby, established, dedicated, and set
2 apart as a national seashore for the benefit and ~~enjoyment~~ment
3 of the people of the United States, and shall be known
4 as the Rehoboth-Assateague National Seashore. The said
5 national seashore may include lands in and along the shores
6 of the following bays and inlets: Rehoboth, Indian River,
7 Little Assawoman, Assawoman, Isle of Wight, Sinepuxent,
8 Chincoteague, and Assateague, but not more than 25 per
9 centum of the lands designated by the Secretary of the
10 Interior shall be west of the main channels of said bays
11 and inlets, and no land shall be so designated within the
12 corporate limits of Rehoboth, Delaware; Bethany Beach,
13 Delaware; Ocean City, Maryland; and Chincoteague,
14 Virginia.

15 SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized, in
16 his discretion, to acquire on behalf of the United States,
17 through donation or by purchase, lands and interests in lands,
18 buildings, structures, and other property within the bound-
19 aries of said national seashore as determined and fixed by
20 this Act, and he may accept donations of funds for the pur-
21 chase thereof, the title to lands or interests in lands to be
22 acquired pursuant to this Act to be satisfactory to the Secre-
23 tary of the Interior.

24 SEC. 3. The administration, protection, and development
25 of the aforesaid national seashore shall be exercised under the

1 direction of the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916
2 ~~of~~ Stat. 535). entitled "An Act to establish a National
3 Park Service, and for other purposes", as amended: *Pro-*
4 *vided*, That nothing herein shall divest the jurisdiction of
5 other agencies of the Government now exercised over fed-
6 erally owned lands within the area of the national seashore:
7 *And provided further*, That the legal residents of towns and
8 villages within the exterior boundaries of the area as fixed
9 and determined by the said Secretary shall have the right
10 to earn a livelihood by fishing, subject to such rules and
11 regulations as the said Secretary may deem necessary in order
12 to protect the area for recreational use.

13 **SEC. 4.** The authority granted to the Secretary of the
14 Interior by the Interior Department Appropriation Acts for
15 the fiscal year ending June 30, 1930 (45 Stat. 1600), and
16 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1932 (46 Stat. 1155),
17 to incur obligations and enter into contracts for the acqui-
18 sition of privately owned lands and timber within national
19 parks is hereby extended to cover the lands determined and
20 designated by the said Secretary as provided in section 1
21 of this Act, and there is hereby authorized to be appropri-
22 ated not to exceed \$1,500,000 to match funds from outside
23 sources that may be donated for the purchase of said lands:
24 *Provided*, That the appraised value of lands within such area
25 which may be donated to the United States shall be con-

1 sidered as matching funds so as to authorize contractual
2 obligations in an equivalent amount for the purchase at their
3 full value of privately owned lands within the area of the
4 national seashore: *And provided further*, That there are
5 hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
6 necessary to cover the full expenses incident to the acquisi-
7 tion of the said lands.

8 SEC. 5. The Secretary of the Interior may, in his dis-
9 cretion, accept for administration and protection by the Na-
10 tional Park Service a minimum of twenty thousand acres
11 within the area described in section 1 of this Act, but the
12 said national seashore shall not be fully established until all
13 the lands designated by the Secretary of the Interior are
14 acquired by the Federal Government.