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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

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

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Preserving America’s
5 Battlefields Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION ACT OF**
2 **2002.**

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

6 **“SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

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

8 “(1) Battlefields of the American Revolution,
9 War of 1812 and the Civil War—

10 “(A) provide a means for the people of the
11 United States to understand our nation’s turbu-
12 lent first century;

13 “(B) serve as living memorials to those
14 who fought and sacrificed in these conflicts to
15 establish and maintain our freedom and liberty;

16 “(C) serve as training grounds for our na-
17 tion’s Armed Forces; and

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

20 “(2) According to the Report on the Nation’s
21 Civil War Battlefields, prepared by the National
22 Park Service and updated in 2010, of the 383 Civil
23 War battlefields identified as national preservation
24 priorities—

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

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

7 “(C) 65 battlefields have no protection at
8 all; and

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

12 “(3) According to the 2007 *Report to Congress*
13 *on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War*
14 *and War of 1812 Sites in the United States*, prepared
15 by the National Park Service, of the 243 principal
16 Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields
17 identified as national preservation priorities—

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

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

23 “(C) 100 other battlefields retain signifi-
24 cant features and lands from the period of bat-

1 tle, although on average these battlefields retain
2 only 37 percent of the original historic scene;

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 “(2) to create partnerships among State and
23 local governments, regional entities, and the private
24 sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor

1 experience at nationally significant battlefields of the
2 American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War.”.

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

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

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

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

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