

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1824

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 21, 2015

Mrs. GILLIBRAND introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Finger Lakes 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 “Finger Lakes National  
5 Heritage Area Study Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

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

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

6           (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
7 of New York.

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

10                   (A) the counties in the State of Cayuga,  
11 Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onon-  
12 daga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben,  
13 Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

14                   (B) any other areas in the State that—

15                           (i) have heritage aspects that are  
16 similar to the areas described in subpara-  
17 graph (A); and

18                           (ii) are adjacent to, or in the vicinity  
19 of, those areas.

20 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

21           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation  
22 with State and local historic preservation officers, State  
23 and local historical societies, State and local tourism of-  
24 fices, and other appropriate organizations and govern-  
25 mental agencies, shall conduct a study to assess the suit-

1 ability and feasibility of designating the study area as a  
2 National Heritage Area, to be known as the “Finger  
3 Lakes National Heritage Area”.

4 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include anal-  
5 ysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the  
6 study area—

7 (1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and  
8 cultural resources that—

9 (A) represent distinctive aspects of the her-  
10 itage of the United States;

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

13 (C) would be best managed—

14 (i) through partnerships among public  
15 and private entities; and

16 (ii) by linking diverse and sometimes  
17 noncontiguous resources and active com-  
18 munities;

19 (2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and  
20 folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the  
21 United States;

22 (3) provides outstanding opportunities—

23 (A) to conserve natural, historic, cultural,  
24 or scenic features; and

25 (B) for recreation and education;

1 (4) contains resources that—

2 (A) are important to any identified themes  
3 of the study area; and

4 (B) retain a degree of integrity capable of  
5 supporting interpretation;

6 (5) includes residents, business interests, non-  
7 profit organizations, and State and local govern-  
8 ments that—

9 (A) are involved in the planning of the  
10 Heritage Area;

11 (B) have developed a conceptual financial  
12 plan that outlines the roles of all participants in  
13 the Heritage Area, including the Federal Gov-  
14 ernment; and

15 (C) have demonstrated support for the des-  
16 ignation of the Heritage Area;

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

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

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

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

8 (a) the findings of the study under section 3; and

9 (b) any conclusions and recommendations of the Sec-  
10 retary.

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