

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1956

To require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to conduct an assessment of cultural and historic resources in the waters of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 2015

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. BALDWIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to conduct an assessment of cultural and historic resources in the waters of the Great Lakes, 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 “Great Lakes Maritime
5 Heritage Assessment Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RE-**
2 **SOURCES IN WATERS OF GREAT LAKES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary
5 for Oceans and Atmosphere shall—

6 (1) conduct an assessment of cultural and his-
7 toric resources in the waters of the Great Lakes;
8 and

9 (2) submit to the Committee on Commerce,
10 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the
11 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
12 House of Representatives a report on the findings of
13 the Under Secretary with respect to such assess-
14 ment.

15 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
16 (a)(2) shall include the following:

17 (1) Identification of underwater geographic
18 areas in the Great Lakes that possess historical and
19 archaeological resources of sufficient value and den-
20 sity to make them nationally significant.

21 (2) A description of the historical and archae-
22 ological resources in such geographic areas.

23 (3) An evaluation of community interest in pre-
24 serving and interpreting such resources.

25 (4) Recommendations regarding whether such
26 geographic areas should be designated as national

1 marine sanctuaries to protect resources of historical
2 and archeological significance.

3 (5) Recommendations regarding whether the
4 designation of a network of underwater Great Lakes
5 areas that protect resources of historical and archeo-
6 logical significance, including the existing successful
7 Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, could
8 bring significant educational opportunities, economic
9 development, jobs, and tourism to the Great Lakes
10 region.

11 (c) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out this section,
12 the Under Secretary shall collaborate with local commu-
13 nities.

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