

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 770

To authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 18, 2015

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

A BILL

To authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance.

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 “Escambia County
5 Land Conveyance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) COUNTY.—The term “County” means
2 Escambia County, Florida.

3 (2) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term “non-Fed-
4 eral land” means the former Santa Rosa Island Na-
5 tional Monument land in the State of Florida that
6 was conveyed by the United States to the County
7 under the Act of July 30, 1946 (60 Stat. 712, chap-
8 ter 699), and by deed dated January 15, 1947.

9 **SEC. 3. RECONVEYANCE OF NON-FEDERAL LAND.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the restrictions
11 on conveyance in the Act of July 30, 1946 (60 Stat. 712,
12 chapter 699) and the deed to the non-Federal land from
13 the United States to the County dated January 15, 1947,
14 and subject to subsection (c), the County may convey all
15 right, title, and interest of the County in and to the non-
16 Federal land or any portion of the non-Federal land, to
17 any person or entity, without any restriction on convey-
18 ance or reconveyance imposed by the United States in that
19 Act or deed.

20 (b) EFFECT ON LEASEHOLD INTERESTS.—No person
21 or entity holding a leasehold interest in the non-Federal
22 as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be required
23 to involuntarily accept a fee interest to the non-Federal
24 land in place of the leasehold interest.

25 (c) LAND WITHIN SANTA ROSA COUNTY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The County may convey to
2 Santa Rosa County, Florida, all right, title, and in-
3 terest of the County in and to any portion of the
4 non-Federal land that is within the jurisdictional
5 boundaries of Santa Rosa County.

6 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—A conveyance under
7 paragraph (1) shall—

8 (A) be absolute;

9 (B) terminate—

10 (i) any subjugation of Santa Rosa
11 County to the County; or

12 (ii) any regulation of Santa Rosa
13 County by the County; and

14 (C) be without consideration, except that
15 the County may require Santa Rosa County,
16 Florida, to pay the actual costs associated with
17 the conveyance of the non-Federal land.

18 (3) RECONVEYANCE.—Santa Rosa County,
19 Florida, or any other person to whom Santa Rosa
20 County, Florida, reconveys the non-Federal land
21 may reconvey the non-Federal land or any portion of
22 the non-Federal land conveyed to Santa Rosa Coun-
23 ty, Florida, under paragraph (1).

24 (4) INCORPORATION OR ANNEXATION.—The
25 owners or leaseholders of non-Federal land conveyed

1 under this subsection may pursue incorporation, an-
2 nexation, or any other governmental status for the
3 non-Federal land, if the owners or leaseholders com-
4 ply with the legal conditions required for incorpora-
5 tion, annexation, or the other governmental status.

6 (5) INTENT OF CONGRESS.—It is the intent of
7 Congress that the conveyance under paragraph (1)
8 shall be completed by the date that is 2 years after
9 the date of enactment of this Act.

10 (d) JURISDICTION.—The non-Federal land conveyed
11 under this section shall be subject to the jurisdiction of
12 the county or unit of local government in which the non-
13 Federal land is located.

14 (e) PROCEEDS.—Any proceeds from the conveyance
15 of non-Federal land by the County or Santa Rosa County,
16 Florida (other than amounts paid for the direct and inci-
17 dental costs associated with the conveyance) under this
18 section shall—

19 (1) be considered windfall profits; and

20 (2) revert to the United States.

21 (f) PRESERVATION.—The County and Santa Rosa
22 County, Florida, shall preserve the areas of the non-Fed-
23 eral land conveyed under this section that, as of the date
24 of enactment of this Act, are dedicated for conservation,
25 preservation, public recreation access, and public parking,

1 in accordance with resolutions adopted by the Board of
2 County Commissioners of the County or Santa Rosa
3 County, Florida, respectively.

4 (g) AUTHORITY OF COUNTIES.—The County and
5 Santa Rosa County, Florida—

6 (1) shall not be subject to a deadline or require-
7 ment to make any conveyance or reconveyance of the
8 non-Federal land authorized under this section; and

9 (2) may establish terms for the conveyance or
10 reconveyance of the non-Federal land authorized
11 under this section, subject to this Act and applicable
12 State law.

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