

113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2166

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## AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Good Samaritan  
3 Search and Recovery Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. EXPEDITED ACCESS TO CERTAIN FEDERAL LANDS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and  
6 implement a process to expedite access to Federal lands  
7 under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for  
8 eligible organizations and eligible individuals to request  
9 access to Federal lands to conduct good Samaritan search-  
10 and-recovery missions. The process developed and imple-  
11 mented pursuant to this subsection shall include provi-  
12 sions that clarify that—

13 (1) an eligible organization or eligible individual  
14 granted access under this section shall be acting for  
15 private purposes and shall not be considered a Fed-  
16 eral volunteer;

17 (2) an eligible organization or eligible individual  
18 conducting a good Samaritan search-and-recovery  
19 mission under this section shall not be considered a  
20 volunteer under section 3 of the Volunteers in the  
21 Parks Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. 18i);

22 (3) the Federal Torts Claim Act shall not apply  
23 to an eligible organization or eligible individual car-  
24 rying out a privately requested good Samaritan  
25 search-and-recovery mission under this section; and

1           (4) the Federal Employee Compensation Act  
2 shall not apply to an eligible organization or eligible  
3 individual conducting good Samaritan search-and-re-  
4 covery mission under this section and such activities  
5 shall not constitute civilian employment.

6           (b) RELEASE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM  
7 LIABILITY.—The Secretary shall not require an eligible  
8 organization or an eligible individual to have liability in-  
9 surance as a condition of accessing Federal lands under  
10 this section if the eligible organization or eligible indi-  
11 vidual—

12           (1) acknowledges and consents, in writing, to  
13 the provisions listed in paragraphs (1) through (4)  
14 of subsection (a); and

15           (2) signs a waiver releasing the Federal Gov-  
16 ernment from all liability related to the access grant-  
17 ed under this section.

18           (c) APPROVAL AND DENIAL OF REQUESTS.—

19           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall notify  
20 an eligible organization and eligible individual of the  
21 approval or denial of a request by that eligible orga-  
22 nization and eligible individual to carry out a good  
23 Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this  
24 section not more than 48 hours after the request is  
25 made.

1           (2) DENIALS.—If the Secretary denies a re-  
2           quest from an eligible organization or eligible indi-  
3           vidual to carry out a good Samaritan search-and-re-  
4           covery mission under this section, the Secretary shall  
5           notify the eligible organization or eligible individual  
6           of—

7                   (A) the reason for the denial request; and

8                   (B) any actions that eligible organization  
9                   or eligible individual can take to meet the re-  
10                  quirements for the request to be approved.

11          (d) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary shall develop  
12          search-and-recovery focused partnerships with search-and-  
13          recovery organizations to—

14                  (1) coordinate good Samaritan search-and-re-  
15                  covery missions on Federal lands under the adminis-  
16                  trative jurisdiction of the Secretary; and

17                  (2) expedite and accelerate good Samaritan  
18                  search-and-recovery mission efforts for missing indi-  
19                  viduals on Federal lands under the administrative  
20                  jurisdiction of the Secretary.

21          (e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
22          of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
23          a joint report to Congress describing—

24                  (1) plans to develop partnerships described in  
25                  subsection (d)(1); and

1           (2) efforts being taken to expedite and accel-  
2       erate good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission  
3       efforts for missing individuals on Federal lands  
4       under the administrative jurisdiction of the Sec-  
5       retary pursuant to subsection (d)(2).

6       (f) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section,  
7       the following definitions apply:

8           (1) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION AND ELIGIBLE IN-  
9       DIVIDUAL.—The terms “eligible organization” and  
10      “eligible individual” means an organization or indi-  
11      vidual, respectively, that—

12                   (A) is acting in a not-for-profit capacity;

13                   and

14                   (B) is certificated in training that meets or  
15                   exceeds standards established by the American  
16                   Society for Testing and Materials.

17           (2) GOOD SAMARITAN SEARCH-AND-RECOVERY  
18      MISSION.—The term “good Samaritan search-and-  
19      recovery mission” means a search for one or more  
20      missing individuals believed to be deceased at the  
21      time that the search is initiated.

1           (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
2           the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Ag-  
3           riculture, as appropriate.

          Passed the House of Representatives January 27,  
2014.

Attest:

*Clerk.*



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