

Union Calendar No. 212

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 359

[Report No. 118-263]

To establish Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón in Puerto Rico as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2023

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself and Mr. SABLÁN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To establish Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón in Puerto Rico as an affiliated area of the National Park System, 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 “Fort San Gerónimo
5 Preservation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) FORT SAN GERÓNIMO DEL BOQUERÓN.—

9 The term “Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón” (also
10 known as “Fortín de San Gerónimo del Boquerón”)
11 means the fort and grounds listed on the National
12 Register of Historic Places and located near Old San
13 Juan, Puerto Rico.

14 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of the Interior.

16 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF AFFILIATED AREA.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón
18 in Puerto Rico is established as an affiliated area of the
19 National Park System.

20 (b) DESCRIPTION OF AFFILIATED AREA.—The affli-
21 ated area shall consist of the area generally depicted on
22 the map titled “Fort San Gerónimo Proposed Affiliated
23 Area”, numbered 910/176698, and dated July 2021.

24 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—The affiliated area shall be
25 managed in accordance with—

1 (1) this Act; and

2 (2) any law generally applicable to units of the
3 National Park System.

4 (d) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The Institute of Puerto
5 Rican Culture shall be the management entity for the af-
6 filiated area.

7 (e) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
8 may provide technical assistance and enter into coopera-
9 tive agreements with the management entity for the pur-
10 pose of providing financial assistance for the marketing,
11 marking, interpretation, and preservation of the affiliated
12 area.

13 (f) LIMITED ROLE OF THE SECRETARY.—Nothing in
14 this section authorizes the Secretary to acquire property
15 at the affiliated area or to assume managerial or financial
16 responsibility for the operation, maintenance, or manage-
17 ment of the affiliated area.

18 (g) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
20 tion with the management entity, shall develop a
21 management plan for the affiliated area.

22 (2) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 3 years
23 after the date on which funds are first made avail-
24 able to carry out this section, the Secretary shall
25 submit the management plan developed under para-

1 graph (1) to the Committee on Natural Resources of
2 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
3 Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

4 (h) PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.—Nothing in
5 this Act affects the land use rights of private property
6 owners adjacent to Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón.

7 (i) NO BUFFER ZONES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act shall be
9 construed to create buffer zones outside of Fort San
10 Gerónimo del Boquerón.

11 (2) ACTIVITY OR USE OUTSIDE FORT SAN
12 GERÓNIMO DEL BOQUERÓN.—The fact that an activ-
13 ity or use can be seen, heard, or detected from with-
14 in Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón shall not pre-
15 clude, limit, control, regulate, or determine the con-
16 duct or management of activities or uses outside of
17 Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón.

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