

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4124

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the Canterbury Shaker Village National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 15, 2024

Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. TILLIS) 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 the Canterbury Shaker Village 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 “Canterbury Shaker Vil-  
5       lage National Heritage Area Study Authorization Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds that—

1           (1) Canterbury Shaker Village, which was es-  
2           tablished in 1792, has played a prominent role in  
3           the history of the United Society of Believers, com-  
4           monly known as the “Shakers”, which was the long-  
5           est-lived and most successful of the several utopian  
6           experiments of the 19th century in the United  
7           States;

8           (2) the advent and growth of the Shaker move-  
9           ment was a significant component of a trans-  
10          formational religious and social fervor in the United  
11          States—

12                   (A) which is known as the “Second Great  
13                   Awakening”; and

14                   (B) that led to the development of a num-  
15                   ber of churches and sects that diversified and  
16                   enriched the society of the United States;

17          (3) the Shakers—

18                   (A) were a communal and celibate religious  
19                   group that saw work, music, and dance as wor-  
20                   ship;

21                   (B) practiced equality of the sexes, paci-  
22                   fism, and technological invention; and

23                   (C) by withdrawing from the larger society,  
24                   developed a refined and aesthetically significant  
25                   expression of architecture, decorative arts, and

1           utilitarian objects that are now known and  
2           studied throughout the world;

3           (4) Canterbury Shaker Village played an in-  
4           creasingly important role in the Shaker movement,  
5           eventually becoming the home of the Shaker Central  
6           Ministry, which supervised the consolidation at Can-  
7           terbury Shaker Village of other Shaker settlements  
8           as the other settlements declined and closed during  
9           the 20th century, preserving and distilling remnants  
10          of the societies at a single site;

11          (5) Canterbury Shaker Village was the only  
12          Shaker community to deliberately transform the  
13          community from a religious society to a nonprofit  
14          museum, Canterbury Shaker Village, Inc., to which,  
15          in 1969, Canterbury Shaker Village conveyed the  
16          land, buildings, furnishings, and archives of Canter-  
17          bury Shaker Village as an intact legacy;

18          (6) in 1992, in recognition of the historical sig-  
19          nificance and physical integrity of Canterbury Shak-  
20          er Village, Canterbury Shaker Village was des-  
21          ignated as a National Historic Landmark;

22          (7) as of the date of enactment of this Act,  
23          Canterbury Shaker Village includes—

24                  (A) approximately 700 acres of land;

25                  (B) 25 buildings; and

1 (C) extensive and verified archaeological  
2 resources, gardens, orchards, a community cem-  
3 etery, miles of roadways, stone culverts and  
4 walls, and a chain of manmade ponds that have  
5 powered a range of industries, including some  
6 industries that derived from the inventions of  
7 the Shakers; and

8 (8) Canterbury Shaker Village has been the  
9 beneficiary of years of concentrated surveying, map-  
10 ping, photographic recordation, archaeological inves-  
11 tigation, and documentary research and writing  
12 that—

13 (A) reflect a fascination on the part of the  
14 outside world with Canterbury Shaker Village  
15 that began in the early 1800s;

16 (B) are scholarly and popular in nature;  
17 and

18 (C) have defined a cultural landscape and  
19 a historical legacy that is of national signifi-  
20 cance and high educational and aesthetic value  
21 to the people of the United States.

22 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

24 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
25 the Secretary of the Interior.

1           (2) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
2 of New Hampshire.

3           (3) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”  
4 means the geographic boundaries of the Canterbury  
5 Shaker Village National Historic Landmark located  
6 in Merrimack County, New Hampshire.

7 **SEC. 4. CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE NATIONAL HERIT-**  
8 **AGE AREA STUDY.**

9           The Secretary, in consultation with State and local  
10 historic preservation officers, State and local historical so-  
11 cieties, State and local tourism offices, and other appro-  
12 priate organizations and governmental agencies and in ac-  
13 cordance with section 120103(a) of title 54, United States  
14 Code, shall conduct a study to assess the suitability and  
15 feasibility of designating the study area as a National  
16 Heritage Area, to be known as the “Canterbury Shaker  
17 Village National Heritage Area”.

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