

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2557

To authorize construction and operation of the Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution at Valley Forge National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 6 (legislative day, OCTOBER 2), 1998

Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. SANTORUM) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To authorize construction and operation of the Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution at Valley Forge National Historical Park, 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 “Valley Forge Museum
5 of the American Revolution Act of 1998”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1)(A) Valley Forge National Historical Park,
9 formerly a State park, was established in 1976 as a

1 unit of the National Park System under Public Law
2 94–337 (16 U.S.C. 410aa et seq.); and

3 (B) the National Park Service acquired various
4 parcels of land and structures associated with the
5 Park, including a visitor center, from the Common-
6 wealth of Pennsylvania;

7 (2) the Park maintains an extensive collection
8 of—

9 (A) artifacts, books, and other items relat-
10 ing to the 1777–1778 winter encampment of
11 General George Washington’s Continental Army
12 at Valley Forge;

13 (B) artifacts of military life from the Revo-
14 lutionary War era;

15 (C) important archaeological resources;
16 and

17 (D) numerous structures and associated
18 artifacts;

19 (3) between 1982 and 1997, the National Park
20 Service completed a general management plan, long-
21 range interpretive plan, and strategic business plan
22 for the Park that establish goals and priorities for
23 management of the Park;

24 (4) the plans—

1 (A) identify inadequacies in the Park’s vis-
2 itor center and interpretive programs;

3 (B) call for development of a new or sig-
4 nificantly renovated visitor center that would
5 make the collection accessible to the public
6 through exhibits and research facilities; and

7 (C) call for improving the interpretation of
8 the landscape and improving the circulation of
9 visitors into and through the Park;

10 (5) the Valley Forge Historical Society—

11 (A) was established in 1918 as a nonprofit
12 organization to preserve and interpret for fu-
13 ture generations the significant history and ar-
14 tifacts of the American Revolution in the his-
15 toric setting of Valley Forge;

16 (B) has amassed valuable holdings of arti-
17 facts, art, books, and other items relating to the
18 1777–1778 encampment, the American Revolu-
19 tion, and the American colonial era; and

20 (C) continues to pursue additional impor-
21 tant collections through bequests, exchanges,
22 and acquisitions;

23 (6)(A) as of the date of enactment of this Act,
24 the Society’s collection is housed in a facility that is

1 inadequate to properly maintain, preserve, and dis-
2 play the ever-growing collection; and

3 (B) the Society is interested in developing an
4 up-to-date museum and education facility;

5 (7) the Society and the National Park Service
6 have discussed the idea of a joint museum, education
7 facility, and visitor center that would—

8 (A) directly support the historical, edu-
9 cational, and interpretive activities and needs of
10 the Park and such activities and needs of the
11 Society;

12 (B) combine 2 outstanding museum collec-
13 tions; and

14 (C) provide an enhanced experience at Val-
15 ley Forge for visitors, scholars, and researchers;

16 (8) under section 1602 of the Transportation
17 Equity Act for the 21st Century (112 Stat. 262),
18 \$3,000,000 was set aside to construct access roads
19 and parking facilities for such a joint museum, edu-
20 cation facility, and visitor center at Valley Forge;
21 and

22 (9) the Society has proposed to raise funds to
23 construct a new museum, education facility, and vis-
24 itor center on Park property that would be planned,

1 developed, and operated jointly with the National
2 Park Service.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-
4 ize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agree-
5 ment with the Society to construct and operate, in co-
6 operation with the Secretary, a museum within the bound-
7 ary of the Park.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) AGREEMENT.—The term “agreement”
11 means the agreement described in section 4(a).

12 (2) MUSEUM.—The term “Museum” means the
13 Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution
14 described in section 4.

15 (3) PARK.—The term “Park” means Valley
16 Forge National Historical Park.

17 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of the Interior.

19 (5) SOCIETY.—The term “Society” means the
20 Valley Forge Historical Society.

21 **SEC. 4. VALLEY FORGE MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVO-**
22 **LUTION.**

23 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—In administering the Park,
24 the Secretary may enter into an agreement under appro-
25 priate terms and conditions with the Society to facilitate

1 the planning, construction, and operation of the Valley
2 Forge Museum of the American Revolution on Federal
3 land within the boundary of the Park.

4 (b) ACTIVITIES OF SOCIETY.—The Agreement shall
5 authorize the Society—

6 (1) to operate the Museum in cooperation with
7 the Secretary;

8 (2) to provide at the Museum, to visitors to the
9 Park, programs and services relating to the story of
10 Valley Forge and the American Revolution; and

11 (3) acting as a private nonprofit organization,
12 to engage in activities appropriate for operation of
13 a museum, including charging fees, conducting
14 events, and selling merchandise, tickets, and food to
15 visitors to the Museum.

16 (c) ACTIVITIES OF SECRETARY.—The Agreement
17 shall authorize the Secretary to carry out at the Museum
18 activities relating to the management of the Park, includ-
19 ing provision of appropriate visitor information and inter-
20 pretive facilities and programs relating to the Park.

21 (d) USE OF REVENUES.—Revenues from the facilities
22 and services of the Museum shall be used to offset the
23 expenses of operation of the Museum.

24 (e) MUSEUM STRUCTURES.—The Agreement shall
25 authorize the Society to occupy and use any structure con-

1 structed at the Park for the purposes of the Museum dur-
2 ing the term specified in the Agreement and subject to
3 the following terms and conditions:

4 (1) CONVEYANCE TO UNITED STATES.—The
5 Society shall convey to the United States all right,
6 title, and interest in each such structure.

7 (2) CONDITIONS ON OCCUPANCY AND USE.—
8 The right of the Society to occupy and use each such
9 structure—

10 (A) shall be for the purposes of—

11 (i) exhibiting, preserving, and inter-
12 preting artifacts associated with the Valley
13 Forge encampment and the impact of the
14 encampment on the American Revolution;

15 (ii) enhancing the experience of visi-
16 tors to the Park; and

17 (iii) conducting the activities of the
18 Society consistent with the mission of the
19 Society; and

20 (B) shall not be transferred without the
21 consent of the Secretary.

22 (3) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The
23 Agreement shall include such other terms and condi-
24 tions as the Secretary considers appropriate.

1 **SEC. 5. PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION.**

2 Nothing in this Act authorizes the Secretary or the
3 Society to take any action in derogation of the preserva-
4 tion and protection of the values and resources of the
5 Park.

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