

Sumner

IA

Union Calendar No. 234

99TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3272

[Report No. 99-393]

To designate the shipwreck of the Titanic as a maritime memorial and to provide for reasonable research, exploration, and, if appropriate, salvage activities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 11, 1985

Mr. JONES of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. LENT, Mr. BIAGGI, Mr. STUDDS, Mr. LOWRY of Washington, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. HUGHES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

NOVEMBER 21, 1985

Additional sponsors: Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BOLAND, Mr. PRICE, Mr. BEILENSON, Mr. HERTEL of Michigan, Mr. MATSUI, Mrs. BENTLEY, Mr. MANTON, Mr. BEDELL, Mr. FAZIO, Mr. WEISS, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. DORNAN of California, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. WHITLEY

NOVEMBER 21, 1985

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill see copy of bill as introduced on September 11, 1985]

A BILL

To designate the shipwreck of the Titanic as a maritime memorial and to provide for reasonable research, exploration, and, if appropriate, salvage activities.

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 "R.M.S. Titanic Maritime*
5 *Memorial Act of 1985".*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) *FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—*

8 (1) *the R.M.S. Titanic, the ocean liner which*
9 *sank on her maiden voyage after striking an iceberg on*
10 *April 14, 1912, should be designated as an interna-*
11 *tional maritime memorial to the men, women, and chil-*
12 *dren who perished aboard her;*

13 (2) *the recent discovery of the R.M.S. Titanic,*
14 *lying more than twelve thousand feet beneath the ocean*
15 *surface, demonstrates the practical applications of*
16 *ocean science and engineering;*

17 (3) *the R.M.S. Titanic, well-preserved in the cold,*
18 *oxygen-poor waters of the deep North Atlantic Ocean,*
19 *is of major national and international cultural and*
20 *historical significance, and merits appropriate interna-*
21 *tional protection; and*

22 (4) *the R.M.S. Titanic represents a special oppor-*
23 *tunity for deep ocean scientific research and*
24 *exploration.*

1 (b) *PURPOSES.*—*The Congress declares that the pur-*
2 *poses of this Act are—*

3 (1) *to encourage international efforts to designate*
4 *the R.M.S. Titanic as an international maritime me-*
5 *morial to those who lost their lives aboard her in 1912;*

6 (2) *to direct the United States to enter into nego-*
7 *tiations with other interested nations to establish an*
8 *international agreement which will provide for designa-*
9 *tion of the R.M.S. Titanic as an international mari-*
10 *time memorial, and protect the scientific, cultural, and*
11 *historical significance of the R.M.S. Titanic;*

12 (3) *to encourage, in those negotiations or in other*
13 *fora, the development and implementation of interna-*
14 *tional guidelines for conducting research on, explora-*
15 *tion of, and if appropriate, salvage of the R.M.S. Ti-*
16 *tanic; and*

17 (4) *to express the sense of the United States Con-*
18 *gress that, pending such international agreement or*
19 *guidelines, no person should physically alter, disturb,*
20 *or salvage the R.M.S. Titanic in any research or ex-*
21 *ploratory activities which are conducted.*

22 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

23 *For the purposes of this Act, the term—*

1 (a) “Administrator” means the Administrator of
2 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
3 (NOAA);

4 (b) “person” means any individual (whether or
5 not a citizen or national of the United States), any
6 corporation, partnership, association, or other entity
7 (whether or not organized or existing under the laws of
8 any State), and any Federal, State, local, or foreign
9 government or any entity of any such government;

10 (c) “R.M.S. Titanic” means the shipwrecked
11 vessel R.M.S. Titanic, her cargo or other contents, in-
12 cluding those items which are scattered on the ocean
13 floor in her vicinity; and

14 (d) “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

15 **SEC. 4. COMMENDATION.**

16 The Congress of the United States highly commends the
17 members of the joint international expedition which discov-
18 ered the R.M.S. Titanic.

19 **SEC. 5. INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES.**

20 (a) The Administrator is directed to enter into consulta-
21 tions with the United Kingdom, France, Canada, and other
22 interested nations to develop international guidelines for re-
23 search on, exploration of, and if appropriate, salvage of the
24 R.M.S. Titanic, which:

1 (1) are consistent with its national and interna-
2 tional scientific, cultural, and historical significance
3 and the purposes of this Act; and

4 (2) promote the safety of individuals involved in
5 such operations.

6 (b) In developing these international guidelines, the Ad-
7 ministrator shall consult with the Secretary and shall pro-
8 mote full participation by other interested Federal agencies,
9 academic and research institutions, and members of the
10 public.

11 **SEC. 6. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT.**

12 (a) The Secretary is directed to enter into negotiations
13 with the United Kingdom, France, Canada, and other inter-
14 ested nations to develop an international agreement which
15 provides for:

16 (1) the designation of the R.M.S. Titanic as an
17 international maritime memorial; and

18 (2) research on, exploration of, and if appropriate,
19 salvage of the R.M.S. Titanic consistent with the inter-
20 national guidelines developed pursuant to section (5)
21 and the purposes of this Act.

22 (b) In carrying out the requirements of subsection (a),
23 the Secretary shall consult with the Administrator, who shall
24 provide research and technical assistance to the Secretary.

1 (c) *The Secretary and the Administrator shall report*
2 *semiannually to the Committee on Merchant Marine and*
3 *Fisheries in the House of Representatives and to the appro-*
4 *priate Committee in the Senate on the progress of the negoti-*
5 *ations and consultations.*

6 (d) *Upon adoption of an international agreement as de-*
7 *scribed in subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide notifica-*
8 *tion of the agreement and recommendations for legislation to*
9 *implement the agreement to the Committee on Merchant*
10 *Marine and Fisheries in the House of Representatives and to*
11 *the appropriate Committee in the Senate.*

12 **SEC. 7. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING CONDUCT OF FUTURE**
13 **ACTIVITIES.**

14 *It is the sense of Congress that research and limited*
15 *exploration activities concerning the R.M.S. Titanic should*
16 *continue for the purpose of enhancing public knowledge of its*
17 *scientific, cultural, and historical significance: Provided,*
18 *That, pending adoption of the international agreement de-*
19 *scribed in section 6(a) or implementation of the international*
20 *guidelines described in section 5, no person should conduct*
21 *any such research or exploration activity which would phys-*
22 *ically alter, disturb, or salvage the R.M.S. Titanic.*

23 **SEC. 8. DISCLAIMER OF EXTRATERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY.**

24 *By enactment of this Act, the United States does not*
25 *assert sovereignty, or sovereign or exclusive rights or juris-*

- 1 *diction over, or the ownership of, any marine areas or the*
- 2 *R.M.S. Titanic.*

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to encourage international efforts to designate the shipwreck of the R.M.S. Titanic as an international maritime memorial and to provide for reasonable research, exploration and, if appropriate, salvage activities with respect to the shipwreck."