

104<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

**H. R. 826**

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**AN ACT**

To extend the deadline for the completion of certain land exchanges involving the Big Thicket National Preserve in Texas, and for other purposes.

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## AN ACT

To extend the deadline for the completion of certain land exchanges involving the Big Thicket National Preserve in Texas, 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. FINDINGS.**

4        The Congress finds that—

5                (1) under the Big Thicket National Preserve  
6        Addition Act of 1993 (Public Law 103–46), Con-

1       gress increased the size of the Big Thicket National  
2       Preserve through authorized land exchanges;

3               (2) such land exchanges were not consummated  
4       by July 1, 1995, as required by Public Law 103–46;  
5       and

6               (3) failure to consummate such land exchanges  
7       by the end of the three-year extension provided by  
8       this Act will necessitate further intervention and di-  
9       rection from Congress concerning such land ex-  
10      changes.

11 **SEC. 2. TIME PERIOD FOR LAND EXCHANGE.**

12       (a) EXTENSION.—The last sentence of subsection (d)  
13      of the first section of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize  
14      the establishment of the Big Thicket National Preserve  
15      in the State of Texas, and for other purposes”, approved  
16      October 11, 1974 (16 U.S.C. 698(d)), is amended by  
17      striking out “two years after date of enactment” and in-  
18      serting “five years after the date of enactment”.

19       (b) INDEPENDENT APPRAISAL.—Subsection (d) of  
20      the first section of such Act (16 U.S.C. 698(d)) is further  
21      amended by adding at the end the following: “The Sec-  
22      retary, in considering the values of the private lands to  
23      be exchanged under this subsection, shall consider inde-  
24      pendent appraisals submitted by the owners of the private  
25      lands.”.

1 (c) LIMITATION.—Subsection (d) of the first section  
2 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 698(d)), as amended by subsection  
3 (b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:  
4 “The authority to exchange lands under this subsection  
5 shall expire on July 1, 1998.”.

6 **SEC. 3. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

7 Not later than six months after the date of the enact-  
8 ment of this Act and every six months thereafter until the  
9 earlier of the consummation of the exchange or July 1,  
10 1998, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of  
11 Agriculture shall each submit a report to the Committee  
12 on Resources of the House of Representatives and the  
13 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Sen-  
14 ate concerning the progress in consummating the land ex-  
15 change authorized by the amendments made by Big Thicket  
16 National Preserve Addition Act of 1993 (Public Law  
17 103–46).

18 **SEC. 4. LAND EXCHANGE IN LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS.**

19 If, within one year after the date of the enactment  
20 of this Act—

21 (1) the owners of the private lands described in  
22 subsection (b)(1) offer to transfer all their right,  
23 title, and interest in and to such lands to the Sec-  
24 retary of the Interior, and

1           (2) Liberty County, Texas, agrees to accept the  
2           transfer of the Federal lands described in subsection  
3           (b)(2),  
4           the Secretary shall accept such offer of private lands and,  
5           in exchange and without additional consideration, transfer  
6           to Liberty County, Texas, all right, title, and interest of  
7           the United States in and to the Federal lands described  
8           in subsection (b)(2).

9           (b) LANDS DESCRIBED.—

10           (1) PRIVATE LANDS.—The private lands de-  
11           scribed in this paragraph are approximately 3.76  
12           acres of lands located in Liberty County, Texas, as  
13           generally depicted on the map entitled “Big Thicket  
14           Lake Estates Access—Proposed”.

15           (2) FEDERAL LANDS.—The Federal lands de-  
16           scribed in this paragraph are approximately 2.38  
17           acres of lands located in Menard Creek Corridor  
18           Unit of the Big Thicket National Preserve, as gen-  
19           erally depicted on the map referred to in paragraph  
20           (1).

21           (c) ADMINISTRATION OF LANDS ACQUIRED BY THE  
22           UNITED STATES.—The lands acquired by the Secretary  
23           under this section shall be added to and administered as

1 part of the Menard Creek Corridor Unit of the Big Thick-  
2 et National Preserve.

Passed the House of Representatives December 5,  
1995.

Attest:

*Clerk.*