

Union Calendar No. 185

104TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. R. 826

[Report No. 104-371]

A BILL

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

NOVEMBER 30, 1995

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

Union Calendar No. 185

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 826

[Report No. 104-371]

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 1995

Mr. WILSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

NOVEMBER 30, 1995

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]

A BILL

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

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. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR LAND EXCHANGE.**

4 The last sentence of subsection (d) of the first section
5 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the establishment

1 of the Big Thicket National Preserve in the State of
2 Texas, and for other purposes”, approved October 11,
3 1974 (16 U.S.C. 698), is amended by striking out “two
4 years after the date of enactment” and inserting “4 years
5 after the date of enactment”.

6 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

7 *The Congress finds that—*

8 *(1) under the Big Thicket National Preserve Ad-*
9 *dition Act of 1993 (Public Law 103–46), Congress in-*
10 *creased the size of the Big Thicket National Preserve*
11 *through authorized land exchanges;*

12 *(2) such land exchanges were not consummated*
13 *by July 1, 1995, as required by Public Law 103–46;*
14 *and*

15 *(3) failure to consummate such land exchanges*
16 *by the end of the three-year extension provided by this*
17 *Act will necessitate further intervention and direction*
18 *from Congress concerning such land exchanges.*

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

20 *(a) EXTENSION.—The last sentence of subsection (d)*
21 *of the first section of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize*
22 *the establishment of the Big Thicket National Preserve in*
23 *the State of Texas, and for other purposes”, approved Octo-*
24 *ber 11, 1974 (16 U.S.C. 698(d)), is amended by striking*

1 out “two years after date of enactment” and inserting “five
2 years after the date of enactment”.

3 (b) *INDEPENDENT APPRAISAL.*—Subsection (d) of the
4 first section of such Act (16 U.S.C. 698(d)) is further
5 amended by adding at the end the following: “The Sec-
6 retary, in considering the values of the private lands to be
7 exchanged under this subsection, shall consider independent
8 appraisals submitted by the owners of the private lands.”.

9 (c) *LIMITATION.*—Subsection (d) of the first section of
10 such Act (16 U.S.C. 698(d)), as amended by subsection (b),
11 is further amended by adding at the end the following: “The
12 authority to exchange lands under this subsection shall ex-
13 pire on July 1, 1998.”.

14 **SEC. 3. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

15 Not later than six months after the date of the enact-
16 ment of this Act and every six months thereafter until the
17 earlier of the consummation of the exchange or July 1,
18 1998, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Ag-
19 riculture shall each submit a report to the Committee on
20 Resources of the House of Representatives and the Commit-
21 tee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate concern-
22 ing the progress in consummating the land exchange au-
23 thorized by the amendments made by Big Thicket National
24 Preserve Addition Act of 1993 (Public Law 103–46).

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

2 *If, within one year after the date of the enactment of*
3 *this Act—*

4 *(1) the owners of the private lands described in*
5 *subsection (b)(1) offer to transfer all their right, title,*
6 *and interest in and to such lands to the Secretary of*
7 *the Interior, and*

8 *(2) Liberty County, Texas, agrees to accept the*
9 *transfer of the Federal lands described in subsection*
10 *(b)(2),*

11 *the Secretary shall accept such offer of private lands and,*
12 *in exchange and without additional consideration, transfer*
13 *to Liberty County, Texas, all right, title, and interest of*
14 *the United States in and to the Federal lands described in*
15 *subsection (b)(2).*

16 *(b) LANDS DESCRIBED.—*

17 *(1) PRIVATE LANDS.—The private lands de-*
18 *scribed in this paragraph are approximately 3.76*
19 *acres of lands located in Liberty County, Texas, as*
20 *generally depicted on the map entitled “Big Thicket*
21 *Lake Estates Access—Proposed”.*

22 *(2) FEDERAL LANDS.—The Federal lands de-*
23 *scribed in this paragraph are approximately 2.38*
24 *acres of lands located in Menard Creek Corridor Unit*
25 *of the Big Thicket National Preserve, as generally de-*
26 *scribed on the map referred to in paragraph (1).*

1 (c) *ADMINISTRATION OF LANDS ACQUIRED BY THE*
2 *UNITED STATES.—The lands acquired by the Secretary*
3 *under this section shall be added to and administered as*
4 *part of the Menard Creek Corridor Unit of the Big Thicket*
5 *National Preserve.*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to extend the deadline for the completion of certain land exchanges involving the Big Thicket National Preserve in Texas, and for other purposes.”.