

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

# H. R. 2455

To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to convey the vessel USS SPHINX to the Dunkirk Historical Lighthouse and Veterans Park Museum for use as a military museum.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2001

Mr. QUINN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to convey the vessel USS SPHINX to the Dunkirk Historical Lighthouse and Veterans Park Museum for use as a military museum.

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. AUTHORITY TO CONVEY VESSEL.**

4       (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other law,  
5       the Secretary of Transportation may convey the right,  
6       title, and interest of the United States Government in and  
7       to the vessel USS SPHINX (ARL-24), to the Dunkirk  
8       Historical Lighthouse and Veterans Park Museum (a not-

1 for-profit corporation, in this section referred to as the  
2 “recipient”) for use as a military museum, if—

3 (1) the recipient agrees to use the vessel as a  
4 nonprofit military museum;

5 (2) the vessel is not used for commercial trans-  
6 portation purposes;

7 (3) the recipient agrees to make the vessel  
8 available to the Government when the Secretary re-  
9 quires use of the vessel by the Government;

10 (4) the recipient agrees that when the recipient  
11 no longer requires the vessel for use as a military  
12 museum—

13 (A) the recipient will, at the discretion of  
14 the Secretary, reconvey the vessel to the Gov-  
15 ernment in good condition except for ordinary  
16 wear and tear; or

17 (B) if the Board of Trustees of the recipi-  
18 ent has decided to dissolve the recipient accord-  
19 ing to the laws of the State of New York,  
20 then—

21 (i) the recipient shall distribute the  
22 vessel, as an asset of the recipient, to a  
23 person that has been determined exempt  
24 from taxation under the provisions of sec-  
25 tion 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue

1 Code, or to the Federal Government or a  
2 State or local government for a public pur-  
3 pose; and

4 (ii) the vessel shall be disposed of by  
5 a court of competent jurisdiction of the  
6 county in which the principal office of the  
7 recipient is located, for such purposes as  
8 the court shall determine, or to such orga-  
9 nizations as the court shall determine are  
10 organized exclusively for public purposes;

11 (5) the recipient agrees to hold the Government  
12 harmless for any claims arising from exposure to as-  
13 bestos after conveyance of the vessel, except for  
14 claims arising from use by the Government under  
15 paragraph (3) or (4); and

16 (6) the recipient has available, for use to re-  
17 store the vessel, in the form of cash, liquid assets,  
18 or a written loan commitment, financial resources of  
19 at least \$100,000.

20 (b) DELIVERY OF VESSEL.—If a conveyance is made  
21 under this Act, the Secretary shall deliver the vessel at  
22 the place where the vessel is located on the date of enact-  
23 ment of this Act, in its present condition, without cost to  
24 the Government.

1           (c) OTHER UNNEEDED EQUIPMENT.—The Secretary  
2 may also convey any unneeded equipment from other ves-  
3 sels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet in order to re-  
4 store the USS SPHINX (ARL-24) to museum quality.

5           (d) RETENTION OF VESSEL IN NDRF.—The Sec-  
6 retary shall retain in the National Defense Reserve Fleet  
7 the vessel authorized to be conveyed under subsection (a),  
8 until the earlier of—

9                   (1) 2 years after the date of the enactment of  
10 this Act; or

11                   (2) the date of conveyance of the vessel under  
12 subsection (a).

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