

HR 1964

Highlands Conservation Act

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: May 6, 2003

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 108-421.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 108-421. (Nov 30, 2004)

Law: 108-421 (Enacted Nov 30, 2004)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/1964>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Frelinghuysen, Rodney P. [R-NJ-11]

Party: Republican • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (31 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Andrews, Robert E. [D-NJ-1]	D · NJ		May 6, 2003
Rep. Boehlert, Sherwood [R-NY-24]	R · NY		May 6, 2003
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-17]	D · NY		May 6, 2003
Rep. Ferguson, Mike [R-NJ-7]	R · NJ		May 6, 2003
Rep. Garrett, Scott [R-NJ-5]	R · NJ		May 6, 2003
Rep. Greenwood, James C. [R-PA-8]	R · PA		May 6, 2003
Rep. Hoeffel, Joseph M. [D-PA-13]	D · PA		May 6, 2003
Rep. Holt, Rush [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		May 6, 2003
Rep. Israel, Steve [D-NY-2]	D · NY		May 6, 2003
Rep. Johnson, Nancy L. [R-CT-5]	R · CT		May 6, 2003
Rep. Kelly, Sue W. [R-NY-19]	R · NY		May 6, 2003
Rep. LoBiondo, Frank A. [R-NJ-2]	R · NJ		May 6, 2003
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-14]	D · NY		May 6, 2003
Rep. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ-13]	D · NJ		May 6, 2003
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		May 6, 2003
Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		May 6, 2003
Rep. Payne, Donald M. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		May 6, 2003
Rep. Rothman, Steven R. [D-NJ-9]	D · NJ		May 6, 2003
Rep. Saxton, Jim [R-NJ-3]	R · NJ		May 6, 2003
Rep. Shays, Christopher [R-CT-4]	R · CT		May 6, 2003
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		May 6, 2003
Rep. Walsh, James T. [R-NY-25]	R · NY		May 6, 2003
Rep. Gerlach, Jim [R-PA-6]	R · PA		May 7, 2003
Rep. Tierney, John F. [D-MA-6]	D · MA		May 7, 2003
Rep. Lowey, Nita M. [D-NY-18]	D · NY		May 15, 2003
Rep. Holden, Tim [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Jun 2, 2003
Rep. Towns, Edolphus [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Jun 3, 2003
Rep. Fattah, Chaka [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Jun 10, 2003
Rep. Frank, Barney [D-MA-4]	D · MA		Jun 25, 2003
Rep. Weldon, Curt [R-PA-7]	R · PA		Sep 9, 2003
Rep. Sweeney, John E. [R-NY-20]	R · NY		Sep 16, 2003

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 3, 2003
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Reported By	Sep 28, 2004
Natural Resources Committee	House	Discharged from	Oct 29, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
108 S 999	Related bill	May 6, 2003: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (text of measure as introduced: CR S5776-5777)

Summary (as of Nov 30, 2004)

Highlands Conservation Act - (Sec. 2) Sets forth the purposes of this Act, including authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania (Highland States) to preserve and protect high priority conservation land in the Highlands region, an area depicted on a National Forest Service map entitled "The Highlands Region" dated June 2004.

(Sec. 4) Authorizes the governors of the Highland States to annually submit proposed land conservation partnership projects to the Secretary for Federal financial assistance. Defines "land conservation partnership project" as a project located in the Highlands region that is identified by the Forest Service in specified studies as having a high conservation value, and in which a non-Federal entity (i.e., any Highlands State or any agency of a Highlands State with authority to own and manage land for conservation purposes) acquires land from a willing seller to permanently protect, conserve, or preserve the land through a partnership with the Federal Government. Directs the Secretary to annually submit to Congress a list of projects that are eligible for financial assistance. Sets forth eligibility conditions for financial assistance to non-Federal entities.

Limits the Federal share of the cost of any land conservation partnership project to 50 percent. Authorizes appropriations for FY 2005 through FY 2014.

(Sec. 5) Directs the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, to continue to assist the Highland States and other public and private entities in the conservation of land and natural resources in the Highlands region. Authorizes appropriations for FY 2005 through FY 2014.

(Sec. 6) Prohibits anything in this Act from: (1) requiring a private property owner to permit public access, including access by any government, to private property; (2) modifying any law on public access to, or use of, private land; (3) creating any liability of a private property owner for persons injured on the private property; (4) modifying any governmental authority to regulate land use; and (5) requiring private property owners in the Highlands region to participate in the land conservation, financial, or technical assistance programs established by this Act. Provides that funds appropriated under this Act shall be used to purchase land or interests in land only from willing sellers.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 30, 2004:** Signed by President.
- **Nov 30, 2004:** Became Public Law No: 108-421.
- **Nov 20, 2004:** Presented to President.
- **Nov 17, 2004:** Mr. Gibbons moved that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment. (consideration: CR H9826-9828; text as House agreed to Senate amendment: CR H9826-9827)
- **Nov 17, 2004:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 1964.
- **Nov 17, 2004:** Resolving differences -- House actions: On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to by voice vote.
- **Nov 17, 2004:** On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to by voice vote.
- **Nov 17, 2004:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Nov 16, 2004:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Oct 10, 2004:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S11127-11183; text as passed Senate: CR S11178-11180)
- **Oct 10, 2004:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S11127-11183; text as passed Senate: CR S11178-11180)
- **Sep 28, 2004:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Reported by Senator Domenici with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 108-376.
- **Sep 28, 2004:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 735.
- **Sep 15, 2004:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Dec 9, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- **Nov 22, 2003:** Received in the Senate.
- **Nov 21, 2003:** Mr. Calvert moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Nov 21, 2003:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H12118-12121)
- **Nov 21, 2003:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 1964.
- **Nov 21, 2003:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H12118-112119)
- **Nov 21, 2003:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H12118-112119)
- **Nov 21, 2003:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Nov 21, 2003:** The title of the measure was amended. Agreed to without objection.
- **Nov 17, 2003:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Resources. H. Rept. 108-373, Part I.
- **Nov 17, 2003:** House Committee on Agriculture Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Nov. 21, 2003.
- **Oct 29, 2003:** Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands Discharged.
- **Oct 29, 2003:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Oct 29, 2003:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Jun 17, 2003:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Jun 3, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands.
- **Jun 3, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research.
- **May 6, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **May 6, 2003:** Referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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