

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3720

To amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Bay Area Ridge as a national scenic trail, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2026

Mr. SCHIFF introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Bay Area Ridge as a national scenic trail, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Bay Area Ridge Na-
5 tional Scenic Trail Feasibility Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that the Bay Area Ridge Trail—

1 (1) is a scenic nonmotorized multi-use trail that
2 extends approximately 550 miles;

3 (2) consists of approximately 415 completed
4 miles and another approximately 140 miles of the
5 route that are not yet completed;

6 (3) is located near urban areas of the United
7 States;

8 (4) allows people to access the scenic ridgelines
9 of the San Francisco Bay Area;

10 (5) provides maximum outdoor recreation po-
11 tential to a large, diverse population and many year-
12 round visitors to the San Francisco Bay Area;

13 (6) provides for the enjoyment of nationally sig-
14 nificant scenic, historic, and cultural qualities, in-
15 cluding the Pacific Ocean, the Golden Gate National
16 Recreation Area, and State and local parks, among
17 others;

18 (7) passes through diverse environments, in-
19 cluding marsh, grassland, mountain, canyon, rivers,
20 and forests;

21 (8) includes landforms that exhibit significant
22 characteristics, including the Golden Gate Bridge,
23 the San Andreas fault, volcanic areas, geologic for-
24 mations, and wetlands; and

1 (9) connects with side trails and regional con-
 2 nector trails, such as the Bay Trail, Vine Trail, and
 3 Coyote Creek Trail, which provide additional public
 4 access and connect to major population centers.

5 **SEC. 3. BAY AREA RIDGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL FEASI-**
 6 **BILITY STUDY.**

7 Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16
 8 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 9 lowing:

10 “(50) BAY AREA RIDGE NATIONAL SCENIC
 11 TRAIL.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Bay Area Ridge
 13 National Scenic Trail, a multi-use trail extend-
 14 ing approximately 550 miles along the
 15 ridgelines of the hills and mountains sur-
 16 rounding the San Francisco Bay Area in north-
 17 ern California and connecting over 75 parks
 18 and open spaces.

19 “(B) STUDY.—Notwithstanding subsection
 20 (b), not later than 1 year after the date of en-
 21 actment of this paragraph, the Secretary of the
 22 Interior, in consultation with interested organi-
 23 zations (including the Bay Area Ridge Trail
 24 Council), shall complete and submit to Congress

1 the feasibility study for designating the Bay
2 Area Ridge Trail as a national scenic trail.

3 “(C) CONSULTATION.—The study under
4 this paragraph shall be conducted in consulta-
5 tion with each Federal agency and State agency
6 that administers land through which the trail
7 described in subparagraph (A) passes.”.

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