

January 12, 1944.

A B I L L

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to accept a minimum area within the proposed boundaries of the Everglades National Park, Florida, for administration and protection, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, notwithstanding any provision contained in the Act of May 30, 1934 (48 Stat. 816), providing for the establishment of the Everglades National Park in the State of Florida, the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized in his discretion to accept on behalf of the United States title to approximately 200,000 acres of land and/or submerged land deemed by him to be a satisfactory minimum area for administration and protection for national park purposes within the area of approximately two thousand square miles recommended by said Secretary in his report to Congress of December 3, 1930, pursuant to the Act of March 1, 1929 (45 Stat. 1443), and such additional lands and/or submerged lands within said area as may be necessary for the completion of said park; Provided, That no general development of said minimum area shall be undertaken nor shall the park be established until title to a major portion of the remaining lands and/or submerged lands within such recommended area shall have been vested in the United States for national park purposes: Provided further, That pending the establishment of said park the Secretary may acquire, by donation, purchase, or otherwise, all or any part of the lands and/or submerged lands within the proposed park area subject to reservations of oil, gas and mineral rights, for wildlife conservation purposes, to be administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service until such time as said lands and/or submerged lands are freed of such reservations whereupon the said Secretary is authorized to transfer any of such lands and/or submerged lands to the jurisdiction of the National Park Service for administration as a part of the Everglades National Park area.