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Kennedy-Chappaquiddick 220

WASHINGTON AP - Sen. Edward Kennedy has introduced a bill to preserve the group of islands off the coast of Massachusetts, including Chappaquiddick Island.

Chappaquiddick Island is where a car driven by Kennedy ran off a small bridge into an inlet in July 1969. A passenger in the car, Mary Jo Kopechne, was trapped in the car and drowned.

Kennedy's bill, introduced Tuesday, would establish a Nantucket Sound Islands Trust under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and appropriate \$20 million to acquire all the land.

The legislation, Kennedy said, "would not make these islands into a federal preserve. To do so would ignore their fragility, would chill their liveliness, and would, in fact, accelerate their destruction."

"Instead," the Massachusetts Democrat said, "the legislation seeks to harness and channel local efforts, of both a public and private nature, which hold great promise for securing a guarantee against the islands' ultimate and fast-approaching ruin."

The lengthy bill, describing boundaries for lands to be encompassed by the trust, refers several times to "the unimproved dirt road which in a continuation of Chappaquiddick Road divides this inlet from the waters known as Poucha Pond."

This is the road the senator traveled after leaving a party, and on which

lies Dyke Bridge, where the accident occurred in which the 28-year-old Pennsylvania woman plunged to her death.

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