

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3712

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study concerning the preservation and public use of sites in Auburn, New York, associated with Harriet Tubman, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 29, 2000

Mr. HOUGHTON (for himself and Mrs. MEEK of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study concerning the preservation and public use of sites in Auburn, New York, associated with Harriet Tubman, 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 “Harriet Tubman Spe-
5 cial Resource Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Harriet Tubman is an important figure in
2 American history and is most famous for her role as
3 a “conductor” on the Underground Railroad, in
4 which as a fugitive slave she helped hundreds of
5 enslaved individuals to escape to freedom before and
6 during the Civil War.

7 (2) During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman
8 served the Union Army as a guide, spy, and nurse.
9 After the Civil War, she was an advocate for the
10 education of black children.

11 (3) Harriet Tubman settled in Auburn, New
12 York, in 1857 and lived there until 1913. While in
13 Auburn, she dedicated her life to caring selflessly
14 and tirelessly for people who could not care for
15 themselves, was an influential member of the com-
16 munity and an active member of the Thompson Me-
17 morial A.M.E. Zion Church, and established a home
18 for the elderly.

19 (4) Harriet Tubman was a friend of William
20 Henry Seward, who was a Governor and Senator
21 from New York and President Abraham Lincoln’s
22 Secretary of State. William Henry Seward also lived
23 in Auburn, New York, and defied the Supreme
24 Court’s decision in Dred Scott (holding that African

1 Americans were not citizens of the United States) by
2 selling a house in Auburn to Harriet Tubman.

3 (5) Four sites in Auburn directly relate to Har-
4 riet Tubman and are listed in the National Register
5 of Historic Places, as follows:

6 (A) Harriet Tubman's home.

7 (B) The Harriet Tubman Home for the
8 Aged.

9 (C) The Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion
10 Church.

11 (D) Harriet Tubman's grave at Fort Hill
12 Cemetery.

13 (6) The Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged
14 and William Henry Seward's home in Auburn are
15 National Historic Landmarks.

16 **SEC. 3. STUDY CONCERNING SITES IN AUBURN, NEW YORK,**
17 **ASSOCIATED WITH HARRIET TUBMAN AND**
18 **WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD.**

19 (a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Inte-
20 rior shall conduct a special resource study of the national
21 significance, long-term preservation, and public use of the
22 following sites in Auburn, New York, associated with Har-
23 riet Tubman:

24 (1) Harriet Tubman's home, located at 182
25 South Street.

1 (2) The Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged,
2 located at 180 South Street.

3 (3) The Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion
4 Church, located at 33 Parker Street.

5 (4) Harriet Tubman's grave at Fort Hill Ceme-
6 tery, located at 19 Fort Street.

7 (5) William Henry Seward's home, located at
8 33 South Street.

9 (b) POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL PARK
10 SYSTEM.—The study under subsection (a) shall include
11 the Secretary's analysis and recommendations regarding
12 the suitability and feasibility of incorporating the sites into
13 the National Park System.

14 (c) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the study, the
15 Secretary shall consult with the Governor of the State of
16 New York, the Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York,
17 the owners of the sites listed in subsection (a), and the
18 appropriate representatives of the Thompson Memorial
19 A.M.E. Zion Church and the Harriet Tubman Founda-
20 tion.

21 (d) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
22 on which funds are made available for the study, the Sec-
23 retary shall submit to the Congress a report describing
24 the results of the study.

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