

108TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2129

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 5, 2004

Received

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating certain historic buildings and areas in Taunton, Massachusetts, as a unit of the National Park System, 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 “Taunton, Massachu-
5 setts Special Resources Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The city of Taunton, Massachusetts, is
9 home to 9 distinct historic districts, with more than
10 600 properties on the National Register of Historic
11 Places. Included among these districts are the
12 Church Green Historic District, the Courthouse His-
13 toric District, the Taunton Green Historic District,
14 and the Reed and Barton Historic District.

15 (2) All of these districts include buildings and
16 building facades of great historical, cultural, and ar-
17 chitectural value.

18 (3) Taunton Green is the site where the Sons
19 of Liberty first raised the Liberty and Union Flag
20 in 1774, an event that helped to spark a popular
21 movement, culminating in the American Revolution,
22 and Taunton citizens have been among the first to
23 volunteer for America’s subsequent wars.

1 (4) Robert Treat Paine, a citizen of Taunton,
2 and the first Attorney General of Massachusetts,
3 was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

4 (5) Taunton was a leading community in the
5 Industrial Revolution, and its industrial area has
6 been the site of many innovations in such industries
7 as silver manufacture, paper manufacture, and ship
8 building.

9 (6) The landscaping of the Courthouse Green
10 was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, who also
11 left landscaping ideas and plans for other areas in
12 the city which have great value and interest as his-
13 torical archives and objects of future study.

14 (7) Main Street, which connects many of the
15 historic districts, is home to the Taunton City Hall
16 and the Leonard Block building, 2 outstanding ex-
17 amples of early 19th Century American architecture,
18 as well as many other historically and architecturally
19 significant structures.

20 (8) The city and people of Taunton have pre-
21 served many artifacts, gravesites, and important
22 documents dating back to 1638 when Taunton was
23 founded.

24 (9) Taunton was and continues to be an impor-
25 tant destination for immigrants from Europe and

1 other parts of the world who have helped to give
2 Southeastern Massachusetts its unique ethnic char-
3 acter.

4 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

5 The Secretary, in consultation with the appropriate
6 State historic preservation officers, State historical soci-
7 eties, the city of Taunton, and other appropriate organiza-
8 tions, shall conduct a special resources study regarding the
9 suitability and feasibility of designating certain historic
10 buildings and areas in Taunton, Massachusetts, as a unit
11 of the National Park System. The study shall be con-
12 ducted and completed in accordance with section 8(e) of
13 Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(e)) and shall include
14 analysis, documentation, and determinations regarding
15 whether the historic areas in Taunton—

16 (1) can be managed, curated, interpreted, re-
17 stored, preserved, and presented as an organic whole
18 under management by the National Park Service or
19 under an alternative management structure;

20 (2) have an assemblage of natural, historic, and
21 cultural resources that together represent distinctive
22 aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition,
23 conservation, interpretation, and continuing use;

1 (3) reflect traditions, customs, beliefs, and his-
2 torical events that are valuable parts of the national
3 story;

4 (4) provide outstanding opportunities to con-
5 serve natural, historic, cultural, architectural, or sce-
6 nic features;

7 (5) provide outstanding recreational and edu-
8 cational opportunities; and

9 (6) can be managed by the National Park Serv-
10 ice in partnership with residents, business interests,
11 nonprofit organizations, and State and local govern-
12 ments to develop a unit of the National Park System
13 consistent with State and local economic activity.

14 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

15 Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which
16 funds are first made available for this Act, the Secretary
17 shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House
18 of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and
19 Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the findings,
20 conclusions, and recommendations of the study required
21 under section 3.

22 **SEC. 5. PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

23 The recommendations in the report submitted pursu-
24 ant to section 4 shall discuss and consider the concerns
25 expressed by private landowners with respect to desig-

1 nating the certain structures referred to in this Act as a
2 unit of the National Park System.

3 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as
5 may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

 Passed the House of Representatives October 4,
2004.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.