

Union Calendar No. 381

108TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2129

[Report No. 108-637]

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts (for himself and Mr. LYNCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

SEPTEMBER 7, 2004

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 15, 2003]

A BILL

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, Massachusetts*
5 *Special Resources Study Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 *Congress finds the following:*

8 (1) *The city of Taunton, Massachusetts, is home*
9 *to 9 distinct historic districts, with more than 600*
10 *properties on the National Register of Historic Places.*
11 *Included among these districts are the Church Green*
12 *Historic District, the Courthouse Historic District,*
13 *the Taunton Green Historic District, and the Reed*
14 *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 of*
19 *Liberty first raised the Liberty and Union Flag in*
20 *1774, an event that helped to spark a popular move-*
21 *ment, culminating in the American Revolution, and*
22 *Taunton citizens have been among the first to volun-*
23 *teer for America’s subsequent wars.*

1 (4) *Robert Treat Paine, a citizen of Taunton,*
2 *and the first Attorney General of Massachusetts, was*
3 *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 was*
10 *designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, who also left*
11 *landscaping ideas and plans for other areas in the*
12 *city which have great value and interest as historical*
13 *archives and objects of future study.*

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

20 (8) *The city and people of Taunton have pre-*
21 *served many artifacts, gravesites, and important doc-*
22 *uments 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 conducted*
12 *and completed in accordance with section 8(c) of Public*
13 *Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(c)) and shall include anal-*
14 *ysis, documentation, and determinations regarding whether*
15 *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 histor-*
2 *ical events that are valuable parts of the national*
3 *story;*

4 (4) *provide outstanding opportunities to conserve*
5 *natural, historic, cultural, architectural, or scenic fea-*
6 *tures;*

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 Nat-*
19 *ural Resources of the Senate a report on the findings, con-*
20 *clusions, and recommendations of the study required under*
21 *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 ex-*
25 *pressed by private landowners with respect to designating*

1 *the certain structures referred to in this Act as a unit of*
2 *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.*

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