

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2345

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 2000

Referred to the Committee on Resources

AN ACT

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

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) Harriet Tubman was born into slavery on
4 a plantation in Dorchester County, Maryland, in
5 1821;

6 (2) in 1849, Harriet Tubman escaped the plan-
7 tation on foot, using the North Star for direction
8 and following a route through Maryland, Delaware,
9 and Pennsylvania to Philadelphia, where she gained
10 her freedom;

11 (3) Harriet Tubman is an important figure in
12 the history of the United States, and is most famous
13 for her role as a “conductor” on the Underground
14 Railroad, in which, as a fugitive slave, she helped
15 hundreds of enslaved individuals to escape to free-
16 dom before and during the Civil War;

17 (4) during the Civil War, Harriet Tubman
18 served the Union Army as a guide, spy, and nurse;

19 (5) after the Civil War, Harriet Tubman was
20 an advocate for the education of black children;

21 (6) Harriet Tubman settled in Auburn, New
22 York, in 1857, and lived there until 1913;

23 (7) while in Auburn, Harriet Tubman dedicated
24 her life to caring selflessly and tirelessly for people
25 who could not care for themselves, was an influential
26 member of the community and an active member of

1 the Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, and
 2 established a home for the elderly;

3 (8) Harriet Tubman was a friend of William
 4 Henry Seward, who served as the Governor of and
 5 a Senator from the State of New York and as Sec-
 6 retary of State under President Abraham Lincoln;

7 (9) 4 sites in Auburn that directly relate to
 8 Harriet Tubman and are listed on the National Reg-
 9 ister of Historic Places are—

10 (A) Harriet Tubman's home;

11 (B) the Harriet Tubman Home for the
 12 Aged;

13 (C) the Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion
 14 Church; and

15 (D) Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged
 16 and William Henry Seward's home in Auburn
 17 are national historic landmarks.

18 **SEC. 3. STUDY CONCERNING SITES IN AUBURN, NEW YORK,**

19 **ASSOCIATED WITH HARRIET TUBMAN.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall
 21 conduct a special resource study of the national signifi-
 22 cance, feasibility of long-term preservation, and public use
 23 of the following sites associated with Harriet Tubman:

1 (1) Harriet Tubman's Birthplace, located on
2 Greenbriar Road, off of Route 50, in Dorchester
3 County, Maryland.

4 (2) Bazel Church, located 1 mile South of
5 Greenbriar Road in Cambridge, Maryland.

6 (3) Harriet Tubman's home, located at 182
7 South Street, Auburn, New York.

8 (4) The Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged,
9 located at 180 South Street, Auburn, New York.

10 (5) The Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion
11 Church, located at 33 Parker Street, Auburn, New
12 York.

13 (6) Harriet Tubman's grave at Fort Hill Ceme-
14 tery, located at 19 Fort Street, Auburn, New York.

15 (7) William Henry Seward's home, located at 33
16 South Street, Auburn, New York.

17 (b) INCLUSION OF SITES IN THE NATIONAL PARK
18 SYSTEM.—The study under subsection (a) shall include an
19 analysis and any recommendations of the Secretary con-
20 cerning the suitability and feasibility of—

21 (1) designating one or more of the sites specified
22 in subsection (a) as units of the National Park Sys-
23 tem; and

1 (2) establishing a national heritage corridor that
2 incorporates the sites specified in subsection (a) and
3 any other sites associated with Harriet Tubman.

4 (c) STUDY GUIDELINES.—In conducting the study
5 authorized by this Act, the Secretary shall use the criteria
6 for the study of areas for potential inclusion in the Na-
7 tional Park System contained in Section 8 of P.L. 91-
8 383, as amended by Section 303 of the National Park Om-
9 nibus Management Act ((P.L. 105-391), 112 Stat. 3501).

10 (d) CONSULTATION.—In preparing and conducting
11 the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult
12 with—

13 (1) the Governors of the States of Maryland and
14 New York;

15 (2) a member of the Board of County Commis-
16 sioners of Dorchester County, Maryland;

17 (3) the Mayor of the city of Auburn, New York;

18 (4) the owner of the sites specified in subsection
19 (a); and

20 (5) the appropriate representatives of—

21 (A) the Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion
22 Church;

23 (B) the Bazel Church;

24 (C) the Harriet Tubman Foundation; and

25 (D) the Harriet Tubman Organization, Inc.

1 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
2 on which funds are made available for the study under
3 subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a
4 report describing the results of the study.

Passed the Senate October 5 (legislative day, Sep-
tember 22), 2000.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.