

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5377

To establish the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey as the successor to the Edison National Historic Site.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 2004

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To establish the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey as the successor to the Edison National Historic Site.

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 “Act Commemorating
5 the LITE, or Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Edison National Historic Site, located
9 in West Orange, New Jersey, is a vital part of

1 America's national system of parks which preserves
2 Thomas Alva Edison's research and development
3 laboratories, library, papers, and artifacts, as well as
4 his home.

5 (2) The Site is a national historic treasure and
6 contains the world's largest collection of materials
7 related to Thomas Edison, encompassing an esti-
8 mated 5,000,000 pages of documents, over 400,000
9 artifacts, approximately 35,000 sound recordings,
10 and 10,000 books from Edison's personal library.

11 (3) Thomas Edison is one of America's greatest
12 inventors, whose inexhaustible energy and genius
13 produced 1,093 patents in his lifetime, more than
14 any other American, including patents for the incan-
15 descent light bulb, the motion picture camera, and
16 the phonograph.

17 (4) In 1928, Thomas Edison was awarded the
18 Congressional Gold Medal for the "development and
19 application of inventions that have revolutionized
20 civilization in the last century."

21 (5) In 1998, Congress again honored Thomas
22 Edison by directing the Secretary of the Treasury to
23 mint a commemorative coin celebrating the 125th
24 anniversary of Edison's invention of the light bulb to
25 be celebrated in 2004.

1 (6) The Edison National Historic Site is one of
2 America’s most endangered historic places. The Na-
3 tional Park Service, in its General Management Plan
4 and Development Concept Plan, identified the need
5 for numerous actions to preserve, protect, restore,
6 and enhance the Site and determined that sufficient
7 government funds are not likely to be appropriated
8 to complete these necessary actions in the foresee-
9 able future.

10 (7) On November 6, 1997, the National Park
11 Service signed an agreement with the Thomas Alva
12 Edison Preservation Foundation (now the Edison
13 Preservation Foundation), establishing a public-pri-
14 vate partnership to jointly raise money to fund iden-
15 tified improvements at the Edison National Historic
16 Site so as to leave the Site unimpaired for the enjoy-
17 ment of future generations.

18 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

19 (1) to recognize and pay tribute to Thomas
20 Alva Edison and his innovations; and

21 (2) to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance
22 the Edison National Historic Site to ensure public
23 use and enjoyment of the Site as an educational, sci-
24 entific, and cultural center.

1 **SEC. 3. THOMAS EDISON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the
3 Thomas Edison National Historical Park as a unit of the
4 National Park System (hereafter the “Historical Park”).

5 (b) BOUNDARIES.—The Historical Park shall be com-
6 prised of—

7 (1) all property owned by the United States in
8 the Edison National Historic Site as well as all
9 property authorized to be acquired by the Secretary
10 of the Interior for inclusion in the Edison National
11 Historic Site before the date of the enactment of
12 this Act, as generally depicted on the map entitled
13 the “Edison National Historic Site”, numbered
14 20003B, and dated April 1977; and

15 (2) all property authorized to be acquired for
16 inclusion in the Historical Park by this Act or other
17 law enacted after the date of the enactment of this
18 Act.

19 (c) MAP.—The map of the Historical Park shall be
20 on file and available for public inspection in the appro-
21 priate offices of the National Park Service.

22 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer
24 the Historical Park in accordance with this Act and with
25 the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the
26 National Park System, including the Acts entitled “An

1 Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other
2 purposes,” approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16
3 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) and “An Act to provide for the preserva-
4 tion of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and an-
5 tiquities of national significance, and for other purposes,”
6 approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

7 (b) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—

8 (1) REAL PROPERTY.—The Secretary may ac-
9 quire land or interests in land within the boundaries
10 of the Historical Park, from willing sellers only, by
11 donation, purchase with donated or appropriated
12 funds, or exchange.

13 (2) PERSONAL PROPERTY.—The Secretary may
14 acquire personal property associated with, and ap-
15 propriate for, interpretation of the Historical Park.

16 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
17 may consult and enter into cooperative agreements with
18 interested entities and individuals to provide for the pres-
19 ervation, development, interpretation, and use of the His-
20 torical Park.

21 (d) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED LAW.—Public Law 87–
22 628 (76 Stat. 428), regarding the establishment and ad-
23 ministration of the Edison National Historic Site, is re-
24 pealed.

1 (e) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-
2 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United
3 States to the “Edison National Historic Site” shall be
4 deemed to be a reference to the “Thomas Edison National
5 Historical Park” .

6 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as
8 may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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