

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1512

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

APRIL 6, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts (for himself and Mr. LYNCH) 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 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:

1 (1) The city of Taunton, Massachusetts, is
2 home to 9 distinct historic districts, with more than
3 600 properties on the National Register of Historic
4 Places. Included among these districts are the
5 Church Green Historic District, the Courthouse His-
6 toric District, the Taunton Green Historic District,
7 and the Reed and Barton Historic District.

8 (2) All of these districts include buildings and
9 building facades of great historical, cultural, and ar-
10 chitectural value.

11 (3) Taunton Green is the site where the Sons
12 of Liberty first raised the Liberty and Union Flag
13 in 1774, an event that helped to spark a popular
14 movement, culminating in the American Revolution,
15 and Taunton citizens have been among the first to
16 volunteer for America's subsequent wars.

17 (4) Robert Treat Paine, a citizen of Taunton,
18 and the first Attorney General of Massachusetts,
19 was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

20 (5) Taunton was a leading community in the
21 Industrial Revolution, and its industrial area has
22 been the site of many innovations in such industries
23 as silver manufacture, paper manufacture, and ship
24 building.

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

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

12 (8) The city and people of Taunton have pre-
13 served many artifacts, gravesites, and important
14 documents dating back to 1638 when Taunton was
15 founded.

16 (9) Taunton was and continues to be an impor-
17 tant destination for immigrants from Europe and
18 other parts of the world who have helped to give
19 Southeastern Massachusetts its unique ethnic char-
20 acter.

21 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

22 The Secretary, in consultation with the appropriate
23 State historic preservation officers, State historical soci-
24 eties, the city of Taunton, and other appropriate organiza-
25 tions, shall conduct a special resources study regarding the

1 suitability and feasibility of designating certain historic
2 buildings and areas in Taunton, Massachusetts, as a unit
3 of the National Park System. The study shall be con-
4 ducted and completed in accordance with section 8(e) of
5 Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(e)) and shall include
6 analysis, documentation, and determinations regarding
7 whether the historic areas in Taunton—

8 (1) can be managed, curated, interpreted, re-
9 stored, preserved, and presented as an organic whole
10 under management by the National Park Service or
11 under an alternative management structure;

12 (2) have an assemblage of natural, historic, and
13 cultural resources that together represent distinctive
14 aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition,
15 conservation, interpretation, and continuing use;

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

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

22 (5) provide outstanding recreational and edu-
23 cational opportunities; and

24 (6) can be managed by the National Park Serv-
25 ice in partnership with residents, business interests,

1 nonprofit organizations, and State and local govern-
2 ments to develop a unit of the National Park System
3 consistent with State and local economic activity.

4 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

5 Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which
6 funds are first made available for this Act, the Secretary
7 shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House
8 of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and
9 Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the findings,
10 conclusions, and recommendations of the study required
11 under section 3.

12 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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