

# Union Calendar No. 294

113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3222

[Report No. 113-395]

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the 1657 signing of the Flushing Remonstrance in Queens, New York, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

Ms. MENG introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

APRIL 1, 2014

Additional sponsor: Mr. HOLT

APRIL 1, 2014

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 *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on September 30, 2013]

# **A BILL**

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the 1657 signing of the Flushing Remonstrance in Queens, 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 “Flushing Remonstrance*  
5 *Study Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        *Congress finds the following:*

8            (1) *Dutch involvement in North America started*  
9 *with Henry Hudson’s 1609 voyage on the ship, Half*  
10 *Moon, employed by the Dutch East India Company.*

11           (2) *After 1640, New Netherland gradually began*  
12 *to transform from a chain of trading posts into a set-*  
13 *tlement colony.*

14           (3) *As Dutch and English settlers moved closer*  
15 *to one another, they began to assimilate in what*  
16 *would later become Queens County.*

17           (4) *The Dutch and English settlements had not*  
18 *been without conflict. Although the Dutch Republic*  
19 *was well known for its toleration of other faiths, Di-*  
20 *rector General Peter Stuyvesant and his council*  
21 *thought that liberty of worship should not be granted*  
22 *to Quakers.*

23           (5) *When Quakers began to arrive in Flushing,*  
24 *the colonial government issued an ordinance that for-*

1 *mally banned the practice of all religions outside of*  
2 *the Dutch Reformed Church.*

3 *(6) On December 27, 1657, 30 Flushing residents*  
4 *signed what was later called the Flushing Remon-*  
5 *strance, objecting to this order. None of the*  
6 *remonstrance's authors were Quakers.*

7 *(7) Dutch colonial authorities proceeded to arrest*  
8 *the signers of the Flushing Remonstrance. In 1662,*  
9 *John Bowne defied the ban and allowed Quakers to*  
10 *hold services in his house. Bowne was fined and ban-*  
11 *ished to the Dutch Republic for showing contempt for*  
12 *secular authority.*

13 *(8) Bowne was later exonerated after appealing*  
14 *to the guarantees of religious liberty before the Dutch*  
15 *West India Company and returned to Flushing in*  
16 *1664. The colony later fell to British control on Sep-*  
17 *tember 24, 1664.*

18 *(9) The Flushing Remonstrance is now consid-*  
19 *ered by many to be instrumental in the development*  
20 *of religious liberty in the United States and a pre-*  
21 *cursor to the First Amendment to the United States*  
22 *Constitution.*

23 *(10) In 1957, the United States Postal Service*  
24 *released a 3-cent postage stamp commemorating the*  
25 *300th Anniversary of the signing of the Flushing Re-*

1        *monstrance which read, “Religious Freedom in Amer-*  
2        *ica”.*

3            (11) *Queens remained rural and agricultural*  
4        *through the 18th and 19th Centuries. Although its*  
5        *Dutch identity diminished, the tolerance of diversity*  
6        *that has harbored Quakers and other religious sects in*  
7        *the Dutch Colonial period continues to this day.*  
8        *Queens is the most ethnically diverse urban area in*  
9        *the world, with a population of over 2,200,000 rep-*  
10       *resenting over 100 different nations and speaking*  
11       *over 138 different languages.*

12 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

13        *As used in this Act:*

14            (1) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*  
15        *the Secretary of the Interior.*

16            (2) *STUDY AREA.*—*The term “study area” means*  
17        *the John Bowne House located at 3701 Bowne Street,*  
18        *Queens, New York, the Friends Meeting House located*  
19        *at 137–17 Northern Boulevard, Queens, New York,*  
20        *and other resources in the vicinity of Flushing related*  
21        *to the history of religious freedom during the era of*  
22        *the signing of the Flushing Remonstrance.*

23 **SEC. 4. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.**

24            (a) *STUDY.*—*The Secretary shall conduct a special re-*  
25        *source study of the study area.*

1       (b) *CONTENTS.*—*In conducting the study under sub-*  
2 *section (a), the Secretary shall—*

3           (1) *evaluate the national significance of the*  
4 *study area’s resources based on their relationship to*  
5 *the history of religious freedom associated with the*  
6 *signing of the Flushing Remonstrance;*

7           (2) *determine the suitability and feasibility of*  
8 *designating resources within the study area as a unit*  
9 *of the National Park System;*

10          (3) *consider other alternatives for preservation,*  
11 *protection, and interpretation of the study area by*  
12 *Federal, State, or local governmental entities, or pri-*  
13 *vate and nonprofit organizations;*

14          (4) *identify properties related to the John Bowne*  
15 *House that could potentially meet criteria for des-*  
16 *ignation as a National Historic Landmark;*

17          (5) *consult with interested Federal, State, or*  
18 *local governmental entities, private and nonprofit or-*  
19 *ganizations, or any other interested individuals;*

20          (6) *evaluate the impact of the proposed action on*  
21 *the flow of commerce and commercial activity, job op-*  
22 *portunities, and any adverse economic effects that*  
23 *could not be avoided if the proposal is implemented;*

1           (7) *identify cost estimates for any Federal acqui-*  
2           *sition, development, interpretation, operation, and*  
3           *maintenance associated with the alternatives;*

4           (8) *analyze the effect of the designation of the*  
5           *study area as a unit of the National Park System*  
6           *on—*

7                   (A) *existing recreational activities, and on*  
8                   *the authorization, construction, operation, main-*  
9                   *tenance, or improvement of energy production*  
10                   *and transmission infrastructure; and*

11                   (B) *the authority of State and local govern-*  
12                   *ments to manage those activities; and*

13           (9) *identify any authorities, including con-*  
14           *demnation, that will compel or permit the Secretary*  
15           *to influence or participate in local land use decisions*  
16           *(such as zoning) or place restrictions on non-Federal*  
17           *lands if the study area is designated a unit of the Na-*  
18           *tional Park System.*

19           (c) *NOTIFICATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS.—*  
20           *Upon the commencement of the study, owners of private*  
21           *property in or adjacent to the study area shall be notified*  
22           *of the study's commencement and scope.*

23           (d) *APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under sub-*  
24           *section (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section*

1 *8(c) of the National Park System General Authorities Act*  
2 *(16 U.S.C. 1a-5(c)).*

3 *(e) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on*  
4 *which funds are first made available for the study under*  
5 *subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee*  
6 *on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and*  
7 *the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Sen-*  
8 *ate a report containing the results of the study and any*  
9 *conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.*





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