

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1184

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 23, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. KERRY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural 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 nearly 100
3 properties on the National Register of Historic
4 Places. Included among these districts are the
5 Church Green Historic District, the Bristol County
6 Courthouse Complex, the Taunton Green Historic
7 District, 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 grounds of the Bristol County Court-
2 house Complex were designed by Frederick Law
3 Olmsted, who also designed many other important
4 national sites.

5 (7) Main Street and Summer Street, which con-
6 nect many of the historic districts, are home to sev-
7 eral historically and architecturally significant struc-
8 tures, including Taunton City Hall and the Leonard
9 Block building, 2 outstanding examples of 19th Cen-
10 tury American architecture.

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

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

20 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) CITY.—The term “city” means the city of
23 Taunton, Massachusetts.

24 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
25 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
2 of Massachusetts.

3 **SEC. 4. STUDY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
5 with appropriate State historic preservation officers, State
6 historical societies, the city, and other appropriate organi-
7 zations, shall conduct a special resources study regarding
8 the suitability and feasibility of designating certain his-
9 toric buildings and areas in the city as a unit of the Na-
10 tional Park System.

11 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study required under sub-
12 section (a) shall—

13 (1) be conducted and completed in accordance
14 with section 8(e) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C.
15 la–5(e)); and

16 (2) include analysis, documentation, and deter-
17 minations regarding whether the historic areas in
18 Taunton—

19 (A) can be managed, curated, interpreted,
20 restored, preserved, and presented as an or-
21 ganic whole under management—

22 (i) by the National Park Service; or

23 (ii) under an alternative management
24 structure;

1 (B) have an assemblage of cultural, his-
2 toric, and natural resources that together rep-
3 resent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the
4 United States worthy of recognition, conserva-
5 tion, interpretation, and continuing use;

6 (C) reflect traditions, customs, beliefs, and
7 historical events that are valuable parts of the
8 national story;

9 (D) provide outstanding—

10 (i) opportunities to conserve architec-
11 tural, cultural, historical, natural, or scenic
12 features; and

13 (ii) recreational and educational op-
14 portunities; and

15 (E) can be managed by the National Park
16 Service, in partnership with residents, business
17 interests, nonprofit organizations, and State
18 and local governments, to develop a unit of the
19 National Park System consistent with State
20 and local economic activity.

21 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

22 Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which
23 funds are first made available to carry out this Act, the
24 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Re-
25 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-

1 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
2 a report that—

3 (1) describes the findings, conclusions, and rec-
4 ommendations of the study; and

5 (2) includes a discussion and consideration of
6 the concerns expressed by private landowners with
7 respect to designating certain structures studied
8 under this Act as a unit of the National Park Sys-
9 tem.

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