

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1069

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on 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

MAY 15, 2003

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 study on 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 Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the city of Taunton, Massachusetts, has—

2 (A) 9 distinct historic districts, including—

3 (i) the Church Green Historic Dis-
4 trict;

5 (ii) the Courthouse Historic District;

6 (iii) the Taunton Green Historic Dis-
7 trict; and

8 (iv) the Reed and Barton Historic
9 District; and

10 (B) more than 600 properties on the Na-
11 tional Register of Historic Places;

12 (2) all 9 historic districts in the city include
13 buildings and building facades that are of great his-
14 torical, cultural, and architectural significance;

15 (3) Taunton Green is the site at which the Sons
16 of Liberty first raised the Liberty and Union Flag
17 in 1774, an event that helped spark the movement
18 culminating in the American Revolution;

19 (4) beginning with the American Revolution
20 and in subsequent wars, the citizens of Taunton
21 have been among the first to volunteer for service;

22 (5) Robert Treat Paine, a resident of Taunton,
23 was—

24 (A) the first Attorney General of Massa-
25 chusetts; and

1 (B) a signer of the Declaration of Inde-
2 pendence;

3 (6) Taunton was—

4 (A) a leading community in the Industrial
5 Revolution; and

6 (B) the site of many innovations in—

7 (i) the manufacturing of silver and
8 paper; and

9 (ii) shipbuilding;

10 (7) Frederick Law Olmsted—

11 (A) designed the landscaping of the Court-
12 house Green; and

13 (B) prepared landscaping ideas and plans
14 for other areas in the city that have great value
15 and interest as historical archives and objects of
16 future study;

17 (8) Main Street, which connects many of the
18 historic districts, is home to—

19 (A) the Taunton City Hall and the Leon-
20 ard Block building, 2 outstanding examples of
21 early 19th Century American architecture; and

22 (B) many other historically and
23 architecturally significant structures;

24 (9) the city and the residents of Taunton have
25 preserved many artifacts, gravesites, and important

1 documents dating back to 1638, when Taunton was
2 founded; and

3 (10) Taunton was and continues to be an im-
4 portant destination for immigrants from Europe and
5 other parts of the world who have contributed to the
6 unique ethnic character of Southeastern Massachu-
7 setts.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

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

12 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of the Interior.

14 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
15 of Massachusetts.

16 **SEC. 4. STUDY.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
18 with State historic preservation officers, State historical
19 societies, the city, and other appropriate organizations,
20 shall conduct a study of certain historic buildings and
21 areas in the city to determine the suitability and feasibility
22 of designating the historic buildings and areas as a unit
23 of the National Park System.

24 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study required under sub-
25 section (a) shall—

1 (1) be conducted and completed in accordance
2 with section 8(e) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C.
3 16–5(e)); and

4 (2) include analysis, documentation, and deter-
5 minations on whether the historic areas in Taun-
6 ton—

7 (A) can be collectively managed, curated,
8 interpreted, restored, preserved, and presented
9 by—

10 (i) the National Park Service; or

11 (ii) an alternative management struc-
12 ture;

13 (B) have an assemblage of cultural, his-
14 toric, and natural resources that together rep-
15 resent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the
16 United States worthy of recognition, conserva-
17 tion, interpretation, and continuing use;

18 (C) reflect traditions, customs, beliefs, and
19 historical events that are a valuable part of the
20 story of the United States;

21 (D) provide outstanding—

22 (i) opportunities to conserve architec-
23 tural, cultural, historical, natural, or scenic
24 features; and

1 (ii) recreational and educational op-
2 portunities; and

3 (E) can be managed by the National Park
4 Service, in partnership with residents of the
5 city, business interests, nonprofit organizations,
6 and State and local governments, as a unit of
7 the National Park System in a manner that is
8 consistent with State and local economic activ-
9 ity.

10 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

11 Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which
12 funds are first made available to carry out this Act, the
13 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of
14 the House of Representatives and the Committee on En-
15 ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that
16 describes—

17 (1) the findings of the study; and

18 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
19 Secretary.

20 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
22 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

○