

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H. R. 4202, With an
Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a
new text)**

114TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4202

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource
study of Fort Ontario in the State of New York.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 9, 2015

Mr. KATKO (for himself and Mr. HANNA) introduced the following bill; which
was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a
special resource study of Fort Ontario in the State of
New York.

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 “Fort Ontario Study
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) From 1755 until 1814, Fort Ontario and
2 three previous fortifications built on the site of the
3 Fort in Oswego, New York, on the shore of Lake
4 Ontario were used as military installations during
5 the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War,
6 and the War of 1812.

7 (2) The original fort, erected by the British in
8 1755, was destroyed by French forces in 1756. The
9 fort was rebuilt and subsequently destroyed during
10 both the American Revolution and the War of 1812.
11 The star-shaped fort was constructed on the site of
12 the original fortifications in the 1840s, with im-
13 provements made from 1863 through 1872.

14 (3) The United States Armed Forces began ex-
15 panding Fort Ontario in the early 20th century and
16 by 1941, approximately 125 buildings stood at the
17 fort.

18 (4) On June 9, 1944, President Franklin D.
19 Roosevelt announced that Fort Ontario would serve
20 as the Nation's only Emergency Refugee Camp dur-
21 ing World War II. From August of 1944 until Feb-
22 ruary 1946, nearly 1,000 refugees were sheltered at
23 Fort Ontario.

24 (5) Fort Ontario was conveyed from the Fed-
25 eral Government to the State of New York in 1946;

1 it was used to house World War II veterans and
2 their families and then converted to a State historic
3 site in 1953.

4 (6) A post cemetery containing the graves of 77
5 officers, soldiers, women, and children who served at
6 Fort Ontario in war and peace is situated on the
7 grounds of the fort.

8 (7) In 1970, Fort Ontario was placed on the
9 National Register of Historic Places.

10 **SEC. 3. FORT ONTARIO SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.**

11 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred
12 to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall, subject to ap-
13 propriations, conduct a special resource study of Fort On-
14 tario in Oswego, New York.

15 (b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under sub-
16 section (a), the Secretary shall—

17 (1) evaluate the national significance of the
18 site;

19 (2) determine the suitability and feasibility of
20 designating the site as a unit of the National Park
21 System;

22 (3) consider other alternatives for preservation,
23 protection, and interpretation of the lands by Fed-
24 eral, State, or local governmental entities, or private
25 and nonprofit organizations;

1 (4) consult with interested Federal, State, or
2 local governmental entities, private and nonprofit or-
3 ganizations or any other interested individuals;

4 (5) determine the effect of the designation of
5 the site as a unit of the National Park System on
6 existing commercial and recreational uses and the
7 effect on State and local governments to manage
8 those activities;

9 (6) identify any authorities, including con-
10 demnation, that may compel or allow the Secretary
11 to influence or participate in local land use decisions
12 (such as zoning) or place restrictions on non-Federal
13 land if the site is designated a unit of the National
14 Park System; and

15 (7) identify cost estimates for any Federal ac-
16 quisition, development, interpretation, operation, and
17 maintenance associated with the alternatives.

18 (c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study authorized under
19 subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with sec-
20 tion 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

21 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
22 on which funds are first made available for the study
23 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the
24 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-

1 representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
2 Resources of the Senate a report that describes—
3 (1) the findings of the study; and
4 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
5 Secretary.