

Union Calendar No. 294

113TH CONGRESS
2^D 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.

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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