

96th Congress

2d Session

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Tsongas (for himself and Mr. Kennedy) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on _____.

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Boston African American National Historic Site in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 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 That, in order to preserve for the benefit and inspiration of
4 the people of the United States as a national historic site
5 certain historic structures and properties of outstanding na-
6 tional significance located in Boston, Massachusetts, and as-
7 sociated with the creation and development of a free African
8 American community within Beacon Hill prior to the Civil

1 War, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter in this Act
2 referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to establish the
3 Boston African American National Historic Site, including
4 the African American Meeting House, within the area gener-
5 ally depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, Boston
6 African American National Historic Site", numbered
7 BOAF-80,000 and dated March 1980. The map shall be on
8 file and available for public inspection in the offices of the
9 National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

10 SEC. 2. At such time as the Secretary determines that
11 sufficient properties within the boundary of the site are the
12 subject of cooperative agreements pursuant to section 3, he
13 may establish the area as the Boston African American Na-
14 tional Historic Site. Pending such establishment and there-
15 after, the site shall be administered by the Secretary in ac-
16 cordance with the provisions of this Act and the provisions of
17 law generally applicable to the administration of national his-
18 toric sites, including the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat.
19 535; 16 U.S.C. 1, 2-4) and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49
20 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461-467).

21 SEC. 3. The Secretary may accept any gift or bequest of
22 any property depicted on the map referred to in the first sec-
23 tion of this Act, and he is authorized to enter into cooperative
24 agreements with the city of Boston, the Commonwealth of
25 Massachusetts, or any of their political subdivisions, or any

1 private person or organization, including the Beacon Hill Ar-
2 chitectural Commission, to mark, interpret, restore, provide
3 technical assistance, or any combination thereof, and for such
4 other activities as may be necessary for the preservation of
5 any properties depicted on such map. The Secretary is au-
6 thorized to assist with maintenance of those properties owned
7 by the city of Boston, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, their
8 political subdivisions, or not-for-profit organizations.

Cooperative agreements shall contain but need not be limited to,
provisions that (1) the Secretary, through the National Park Service, or
some appropriate private group contracted to the National Park Service,
shall have the right at all reasonable times to interpret the exterior
of the properties, and such portions of the interior as have been mutually
agreed upon, and (2) no changes or alterations shall be made in

16 such properties except by mutual agreement between the
17 Secretary and the other parties to such agreements.

The Secretary is authorized in his discretion to assist with maintenance
directly related to public visitation of those properties covered by cooperative
agreements consummated pursuant to this act.

No funds may be expended on a property until
22 after the Secretary determines that there is applicable to that
23 property a binding written cooperative agreement which re-
24 mains in force and effect assuring the preservation and his-
25 torical integrity of such property. If any fees are charged for

1 the use of a property covered by a cooperative agreement,
2 and Federal funds are committed in the cooperative agree-
3 ments, the income from such fees shall be applied to the costs
4 of maintenance and renovation of that property.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no federal fees shall be charged for entrance or admission to the historic site.

5 SEC. 4. The Secretary, in cooperation with other inter-
6 ested groups, may identify other significant sites relating to
7 the nineteenth century free African American Community on
8 Beacon Hill, Boston, which are related to the historic site
9 authorized by this Act, and, with the consent of the owners
10 thereof, may mark them appropriately and make reference to
11 them in any interpretive literature.

SEC. 5. Within three complete fiscal years from the effective date of this act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the U.S. Senate, a comprehensive general management plan for the historic site, pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 12(b) of the Act of August 18, 1970 (84Stat.825; 16 USC 1A-1, et seq.).

SEC. 6. Effective on October 1, 1981, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, notwithstanding any other provision of this act, authority to enter into contracts to incur obligations, or to make payments under this act shall be effective only to the extent, and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation acts.