

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE,
MASSACHUSETTS ACT OF 2006

JULY 13, 2006.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. POMBO, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 4376]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4376) to authorize the National Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of Springfield Technical Community College, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Springfield Armory National Historic Site, Massachusetts Act of 2006.”

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) The Site commemorates the role of the Springfield Armory in the Nation’s military history, a role that the Armory served for almost 200 years.

(2) The role of the Springfield Armory began in 1777, when the site was selected as the location for a magazine and laboratory for the development, production and storage of guns and powder during the American Revolution.

(3) Following the American Revolutionary War, in 1794 Congress officially established the Springfield Armory and for much of the 19th century the Springfield Armory developed and supplied most of the military small arms manufactured by the United States for the United States Armed Services.

(4) In addition to its historical role in the development and manufacturing of small arms, the Springfield Armory was also the site of Shay’s Rebellion.

(5) In 1968 the Armory was deactivated as a military installation and in 1974 Congress established the Springfield Armory National Historic Site. A portion of the Site is administered by the National Park Service. The remainder of the Springfield

Armory National Historic Site, known as the “Preservation Control Area”, is owned and administered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of Springfield Technical Community College.

(6) The Preservation Control Area contains several historic buildings that are in a state of disrepair. The deteriorating condition of these historic buildings threatens to undermine the character and integrity of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site and their repair, renovation, maintenance and rehabilitation is essential to the continued preservation of the Site and its museum and collections.

SEC. 3. PRESERVATION CONTROL AREA DEFINED.

For purposes of this Act, the term “Preservation Control Area” means that portion of the Site that is owned by the Commonwealth, as defined in the Memorandum of Understanding Between the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts dated August 21, 1999.

SEC. 4. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE PRESERVATION CONTROL AREA.

The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, may enter into a cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of Springfield Technical Community College to provide financial assistance to that college for the purpose of maintaining, preserving, renovating, and rehabilitating any historic structures within the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, including historic structures located within the Preservation Control Area.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 4376 is to authorize the National Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of Springfield Technical Community College, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

In 1978, Congress established the Springfield Armory National Historic Site to preserve the Nation’s first national armory and the center of military small arms manufacturing from 1794 to 1968. Today, the National Park Service manages the Armory Museum and other historical structures while Springfield Technical Community College owns and manages a number of other important historical structures in the “Preservation Control Area” within the Park. H.R. 4376 would formalize and enhance the existing cooperative relationship between the Service and the College by allowing the National Park Service to assist the College financially in preserving a number of historic structures that are important to the overall story of the Armory.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 4376 was introduced on November 17, 2005, by Congressman Richard E. Neal (D–MA). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks. On June 21, 2006, the Full Resources Committee met to consider the bill, at which time the Subcommittee on National Parks was discharged from further consideration of the bill by unanimous consent. Congressman Nick J. Rahall II (D–WV) offered an amendment to the bill that changed the directive for the Secretary to enter into a cooperative agreement from “shall” to “may.” The amendment was adopted by unanimous consent. The bill, as amended, was then ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. This bill does not authorize funding and therefore, clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

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H.R. 4376 would direct the National Park Service (NPS) to provide financial assistance to the Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) to renovate and maintain historic buildings located within the Springfield Armory National Historic Site.

The costs of implementing H.R. 4376 are uncertain because the NPS has not completed formal engineering assessments of the STCC buildings that would need to be renovated and because the bill does not specify the share of this project's costs that would be borne by the federal government. The federal share of those costs would be determined by the Administration in consultation with the STCC. However, based on information provided by the NPS and the STCC, CBO estimates that total costs to restore more than 20 historic buildings and related structures eligible for financial assistance under the bill would be between \$50 million and \$100 million. We expect that the federal government would pay between 75 percent and 100 percent of such costs over the next five years, including \$10 million to stabilize the exterior of the buildings and about \$25 million to restore the largest structure, the Caserne building. All federal spending would be subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting H.R. 4376 would have no effect on revenues or direct spending.

H.R. 4376 contains no intergovernment or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enacting this legislation would benefit the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes to existing law.

