

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3547

To authorize the Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture to support African American history education programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. MURPHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To authorize the Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture to support African American history education programs, 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 “African American His-
5 tory Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY.—The term
2 “African American history” means the history of Af-
3 rican Americans, including the history of African
4 peoples beginning in the African diaspora through
5 the present day, that illuminates the passage to the
6 Americas, slavery, abolition, reconstruction, and the
7 civil rights movements. This history also includes a
8 focus on the innovations and contributions of Afri-
9 can Americans to society both past and present, and
10 the impact of African Americans on the history and
11 development of the United States.

12 (2) AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY EDUCATION
13 PROGRAM.—The term “African American history
14 education program” means an educational program
15 relating to African American life, art, history, and
16 culture, including programs—

17 (A) using digital, electronic, and inter-
18 active technologies; and

19 (B) carried out in collaboration with ele-
20 mentary schools, secondary schools, and post-
21 secondary schools.

22 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
23 the Director of the National Museum of African
24 American History and Culture.

1 (4) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “early childhood
2 education program”, “elementary school”, “local
3 educational agency”, and “secondary school” have
4 the meaning given such terms in section 8101 of the
5 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
6 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

7 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in accordance with
9 any program of the National Museum of African American
10 History and Culture established before, on, or after the
11 date of the enactment of this Act, may use the funds ap-
12 propriated under section 5 to carry out any of the fol-
13 lowing activities at the discretion of the Director:

14 (1) Developing and making available accurate,
15 relevant, and accessible resources to promote the un-
16 derstanding of African American history, which may
17 include digital resources and other types of re-
18 sources, such as print resources and traveling exhibi-
19 tions.

20 (2) Through a social justice and anti-bias lens,
21 convening experts, providing opportunities for dis-
22 course, and engaging with the public through pro-
23 gramming, educational resources, and social media.

24 (3) Through a social justice and anti-bias lens,
25 increasing resource capacity, technical support, and

1 content creation to engage various audiences in-per-
2 son and via online platforms.

3 (4) Creating, expanding, and disseminating
4 scholarly work through research, curricula, in-house
5 and traveling exhibitions, publications, and program-
6 ming.

7 (5) Providing language translation of the work
8 of the National Museum of African American His-
9 tory and Culture, including scholarly work, research,
10 traveling exhibitions, publications, programming,
11 pamphlets, and other information distributed about
12 activities funded under this Act.

13 (6) Expanding the collection acquisition and
14 collection access processes, including staffing, con-
15 servation, processing, and digitization.

16 (7) Augmenting one or more of the following
17 African American history education program activi-
18 ties:

19 (A) Development, dissemination, and im-
20 plementation of principles of sound pedagogy
21 for teaching about African American history.

22 (B) Provision of professional development,
23 such as, but not limited to, through—

24 (i) local, regional, and national work-
25 shops;

1 (ii) teacher trainings or engagements
2 in conjunction with African American his-
3 tory education centers and other appro-
4 priate partners;

5 (iii) engagement with—

6 (I) local educational agencies;

7 and

8 (II) early childhood education
9 programs, elementary schools, and
10 secondary schools that are inde-
11 pendent of any local educational agen-
12 cy; and

13 (iv) operation and expansion of a
14 teacher fellowship program to cultivate and
15 support leaders in African American his-
16 tory education.

17 (C) Engagement with State and local edu-
18 cation leaders to encourage the adoption of re-
19 sources supported under this Act into curricula
20 across diverse disciplines.

21 (8) Creating, developing, implementing, repli-
22 cating, or taking to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-
23 based, field-initiated innovations for museum im-
24 provement, and evaluating rigorously such innova-
25 tions.

1 (b) ONLINE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY EDU-
2 CATION RESOURCES.—

3 (1) WEBSITE.—The Director may use the funds
4 appropriated under section 5 to develop and main-
5 tain on the website of the National Museum of Afri-
6 can American History and Culture content des-
7 ignated for educators, students, and families to im-
8 prove their awareness and understanding of African
9 American history.

10 (2) INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION.—The Direc-
11 tor may use funds appropriated under section 5 to
12 distribute information about the activities funded
13 under this Act through the website of the National
14 Museum of African American History and Culture,
15 and may respond to inquiries for supplementary in-
16 formation concerning such activities.

17 (c) CONTINUATION OF ACTIVITIES.—To the extent
18 that the National Museum of African American History
19 and Culture is engaged in an activity described in sub-
20 section (a) or (b) on the date of the enactment of this
21 Act, the Director may use the funds appropriated under
22 section 5 to continue that activity.

23 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT AND BRIEFINGS.**

24 (a) REPORT.—Not later than February 1 of each
25 year, the Director shall submit to Congress, and make

1 available to the public, a report describing how the funds
2 made available under this Act have been used—

3 (1) to create and promote educational activities;

4 and

5 (2) otherwise to carry out this Act.

6 (b) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 6 months after the
7 date on which funding is first distributed under this Act,
8 and annually thereafter, the Director or the Director’s
9 designee shall brief the Committee on Rules and Adminis-
10 tration of the Senate and the Committee on House Admin-
11 istration of the House of Representatives on the programs
12 and activities carried out under this Act.

13 (c) SUNSET.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall cease to
14 be effective on September 30, 2026.

15 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
17 this Act \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 and each of the
18 4 succeeding fiscal years.

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