

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS REMEM-
BRANCE, SUPPORT, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACT

AUGUST 20, 2026.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. WESTERMAN, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 309]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 309) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide funding for the National Law Enforcement Museum, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Law Enforcement Officers Remembrance, Support, and Community Outreach Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **FUND.**—The term “Fund” means the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

(2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purpose, beginning on the first fiscal year the begins after the date of the enactment of this Act, and for each of the following 6 fiscal years, the Secretary shall award a grant in the amount specified in subsection (c) to the Fund to be used solely for the purposes described in subsection (b), if upon review of the application submitted pursuant to subsection (d), the Secretary makes a determination to award such grant pursuant to subsection (e).

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the grants authorized under subsection (a) shall be for the expenses associated with operating and enhancing the community outreach, public education, and officer safety and wellness programs of the National Law Enforcement Museum, including programs to—

(1) memorialize law enforcement heroes who die in the line of duty and compile statistics on law enforcement fatalities and injuries;

(2) honor and commemorate the extraordinary service and sacrifice of America's law enforcement officers;

(3) develop and make available accurate, relevant, and accessible resources to promote the understanding of law enforcement history and officer safety and wellness training, which include digital resources and other types of resources, such as print resources and traveling exhibitions;

(4) increase technical resources to better engage the public in person and via online platforms to educate and inform the public about community policing and officer safety and wellness;

(5) create, expand, and disseminate scholarly work through research, curricula, in-house and traveling exhibitions, publications, and other outreach initiatives;

(6) expand the collection acquisition and collection processes, including staffing, conservation, processing, and digitization;

(7) augment law enforcement history and officer safety and wellness education activities, including the development, dissemination, and implementation of principles of sound pedagogy for teaching about law enforcement history and officer safety and wellness;

(8) promote professional development, including local, regional, and national workshops, teacher trainings, and partnerships, with appropriate entities to better educate and inform the public about law enforcement history and officer safety and wellness education;

(9) engage with local and independent educational agencies and expand teacher engagement to cultivate and support the development of leaders in the teaching of law enforcement history and officer safety and wellness education;

(10) engage with State and local education leaders to encourage the adoption of resources supported under this Act into curricula across diverse disciplines;

(11) create, develop, implement, replicate, or take to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-based, field-initiated innovations for museum and officer safety and wellness improvement, and rigorously evaluate such innovations;

(12) provide for the free admission to National Law Enforcement Museum for active and retired law enforcement officers and family members of fallen officers, and dedicated free admission hours for the general public at least once a week; and

(13) develop online Law Enforcement History and Officer Safety and Wellness Education Resources for the general public and scholarly research.

(c) GRANT AMOUNT.—Each grant authorized under subsection (a) shall be for \$6,000,000.

(d) APPLICATION.—To be considered for an award of a grant under this section, the Fund shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(e) REVIEW; DEADLINE FOR AWARD.—If the Secretary, after review of the application from the Fund, determines that the Fund satisfies any requirements established by the Secretary under subsection (d), the Secretary shall award the grant to the Fund, not later than 90 days after the date of receipt by the Secretary of the completed application submitted by the Fund.

(f) CONDITION ON RECEIPT OF GRANT.—As a condition on receipt of a grant under this section, the Fund shall—

(1) provide for—

(A) free admission to National Law Enforcement Museum for active and retired law enforcement officers and family members of fallen officers; and

(B) dedicated free admission hours for the general public at least once a week; and

(2) allow for annual Federal audits of the financial statements of the Fund, including revenues associated with ticket sales, charitable donations, grants, and all expenditures on salaries and operations, which shall be subject to review by the Secretary and made available to the public.

(g) REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year for which the Fund obligates or expends funds made available to the Fund pursuant to this section, the Fund shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that includes, for the fiscal year covered by the report, each of the following:

(1) Information relating to the amount of grant funds obligated or expended for the preceding fiscal year.

(2) Information relating to any purposes for which such funds were obligated or expended.

(3) Information relating to the progress in delivering public education, community outreach, and officer safety and wellness programming using funds provided under this section.

(3) Any other information the Secretary may require to effectively administer the program under this section, as determined by the Secretary, if not later than the last day of the fiscal year the Secretary notified the Fund of such requested information.

(h) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this section, and the activities authorized by this section are subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purposes.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 309 is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide funding for the National Law Enforcement Museum, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Law enforcement officers play a critical role in maintaining public safety and upholding social order. Law enforcement agencies, however, face significant operational challenges nationwide, including staffing shortages and difficulties with officer recruitment and retention.¹ From 2019 to 2022, law enforcement agencies saw a 19 percent increase in retirements and a 47 percent increase in resignations.² The demanding nature of law enforcement work also makes officers more susceptible to mental health challenges and, tragically, 147 officers lost their lives in the line of duty last year.³

To honor the brave men and women in law enforcement, Congress established the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) and the National Law Enforcement Museum (Museum) in Washington, D.C., in 1984.⁴ Together, the NLEOMF and Museum tell the history of policing in a democratic society, honor fallen officers, and operate programs aimed at officer safety, wellness, and community education. Through initiatives such as the Destination Zero National Officer Safety and Wellness Awards, NLEOMF highlights best practices that help reduce line-of-duty deaths and injuries, while improving mental and physical health outcomes for officers.⁵ The Museum also facilitates public education through exhibits, teacher training, traveling programs, and outreach initiatives.

H.R. 309 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to provide a grant to NLEOMF to support and expand its community outreach initiatives. The bill authorizes up to \$6 million per year for seven years (\$42 million total) to fund activities such as free museum access for officers, the expansion of digitized collections, and broader distribution of officer safety and wellness resources to law enforcement agencies nationwide. This legislation aligns with President Trump’s Executive Order (E.O.) 14288, “Strengthening

¹“New PERF survey shows police agencies are losing officers faster than they can hire new ones”, Police Executive Research Forum, April 1, 2023, <https://www.policeforum.org/staffing2023>.

²*Id.*

³Matt Lund, “2024 Law Enforcement Fatalities Report Reveals Law Enforcement Deaths Increased”, National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, January 7, 2025, <https://nleomf.org/2024-law-enforcement-fatalities-report-reveals-law-enforcement-deaths-increased/>.

⁴“Why We’re Here”, National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, <https://nleomf.org/about/>.

⁵“National Officer Safety and Officer Awards,” National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, <https://nleomf.org/officer-safety-and-wellness/destination-zero/>.

and Unleashing America’s Law Enforcement to Pursue Criminals and Protect Innocent Citizens.”⁶

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 309 was introduced on January 9, 2025, by Representative Troy Nehls (R-TX). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands. On September 18, 2025, the Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on the bill. On July 22, 2026, the Committee on Natural Resources met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Federal Lands was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 309 by unanimous consent. Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) offered an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute designated Westerman 086 ANS. The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute was agreed to by unanimous consent. The bill, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on Federal Lands held on September 18, 2025.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 names the legislation the “National Law Enforcement Officers Remembrance, Support, and Community Outreach Act”.

Section 2. Definitions

Section 2 defines key terms in the bill.

Section 3. Support for National Law Enforcement Museum

Section 3 directs the Secretary to award the NLEOMF a \$6 million grant annually for seven fiscal years, subject to the availability of appropriations. Section 3 stipulates that grant funding may be used only to operate and enhance the Museum’s community outreach, public education, and officer safety and wellness programs. This includes memorializing fallen law enforcement officers, honoring the sacrifice of law enforcement officers, promoting law enforcement history, increasing technical resources for public engagement, expanding research and educational resources, expanding collection acquisition, developing teaching resources, promoting professional development, engaging with educational institutions, implementing innovations related to museum and officer safety and wellness, providing for free admission to the Museum, and developing online resources.

Section 3 requires the NLEOMF to submit an application for the grant containing information required by the Secretary. The Secretary must review and award the grant within 90 days of receipt.

⁶Executive Order 14288, “Strengthening and Unleashing America’s Law Enforcement To Pursue Criminals and Protect Innocent Citizens,” Executive Office of the President, May 2, 2025, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/02/2025-07790/strengthening-and-unleashing-americas-law-enforcement-to-pursue-criminals-and-protect-innocent>.

ing a completed, sufficient application. Section 3 mandates that, as a condition of receiving a grant, the NLEOMF must provide free admission to the Museum to active and retired law enforcement officers and the families of fallen officers as well as members of the public at least once a week. The NLEOMF must also submit annual federal financial audits and report annually to the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on the use of grant funds and program activities. Finally, Section 3 also clarifies that no additional funds are authorized for this bill and that grants are subject to the availability of appropriations.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of House rule XIII and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of House rule XIII and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office a budgetary analysis and a cost estimate of this bill.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide funding for the National Law Enforcement Museum, and for other purposes.

earmark statement

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the rules of the House of Representatives.

unfunded mandates reform act statement

An estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chair of the Committee shall cause such estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record upon its receipt by the Committee, if such estimate is not publicly available on the Congressional Budget Office website.

existing programs

Directed Rule Making. This bill does not contain any directed rule makings.

Duplication of Existing Programs. This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in

any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95–220, as amended by Public Law 98–169) as relating to other programs.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill’s purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

As ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources, H.R. 309 would make no changes in existing law.

