

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 500

To establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of the National Museum of the American Latino to develop a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a National Museum of the American Latino in Washington, DC, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 6, 2007

Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mrs. CLINTON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of the National Museum of the American Latino to develop a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a National Museum of the American Latino in Washington, DC, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Commission to Study
3 the Potential Creation of the National Museum of the
4 American Latino Act of 2007”.

5 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Commis-
7 sion to Study the Potential Creation of a National Mu-
8 seum of the American Latino (in this Act referred to as
9 the “Commission”).

10 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall consist of
11 23 members appointed not later than 6 months after the
12 date of enactment of this Act as follows:

13 (1) The President shall appoint 7 voting mem-
14 bers.

15 (2) The Speaker of the House of Representa-
16 tives, the minority leader of the House of Represent-
17 atives, the majority leader of the Senate, and the mi-
18 nority leader of the Senate shall each appoint 3 vot-
19 ing members.

20 (3) In addition to the members appointed under
21 paragraph (2), the Speaker of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives, the minority leader of the House of
23 Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate,
24 and the minority leader of the Senate shall each ap-
25 point 1 nonvoting member.

1 (c) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Commission
 2 shall be chosen from among individuals, or representatives
 3 of institutions or entities, who possess either—

4 (1) a demonstrated commitment to the re-
 5 search, study, or promotion of American Latino life,
 6 art, history, political or economic status, or culture,
 7 together with—

8 (A) expertise in museum administration;

9 (B) expertise in fundraising for nonprofit
 10 or cultural institutions;

11 (C) experience in the study and teaching of
 12 Latino culture and history at the post-sec-
 13 ondary level;

14 (D) experience in studying the issue of the
 15 Smithsonian Institution’s representation of
 16 American Latino art, life, history, and culture;
 17 or

18 (E) extensive experience in public or elect-
 19 ed service; or

20 (2) experience in the administration of, or the
 21 planning for the establishment of, museums devoted
 22 to the study and promotion of the role of ethnic, ra-
 23 cial, or cultural groups in American history.

1 **SEC. 3. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION.**

2 (a) PLAN OF ACTION FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND
3 MAINTENANCE OF MUSEUM.—The Commission shall sub-
4 mit a report to the President and Congress containing its
5 recommendations with respect to a plan of action for the
6 establishment and maintenance of a National Museum of
7 the American Latino in Washington, DC (in this Act re-
8 ferred to as the “Museum”).

9 (b) FUNDRAISING PLAN.—The Commission shall de-
10 velop a fundraising plan for supporting the creation and
11 maintenance of the Museum through contributions by the
12 American people, and a separate plan on fundraising by
13 the American Latino community.

14 (c) REPORT ON ISSUES.—The Commission shall ex-
15 amine (in consultation with the Secretary of the Smithso-
16 nian Institution), and submit a report to the President
17 and Congress on, the following issues:

18 (1) The availability and cost of collections to be
19 acquired and housed in the Museum.

20 (2) The impact of the Museum on regional
21 Hispanic- and Latino-related museums.

22 (3) Possible locations for the Museum in Wash-
23 ington, DC and its environs, to be considered in con-
24 sultation with the National Capital Planning Com-
25 mission and the Commission of Fine Arts, the De-

1 partment of the Interior and Smithsonian Institu-
2 tion.

3 (4) Whether the Museum should be located
4 within the Smithsonian Institution.

5 (5) The governance and organizational struc-
6 ture from which the Museum should operate.

7 (6) How to engage the American Latino com-
8 munity in the development and design of the Mu-
9 seum.

10 (7) The cost of constructing, operating, and
11 maintaining the Museum.

12 (d) LEGISLATION TO CARRY OUT PLAN OF AC-
13 TION.—Based on the recommendations contained in the
14 report submitted under subsection (a) and the report sub-
15 mitted under subsection (c), the Commission shall submit
16 for consideration to the Committee on Transportation and
17 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Com-
18 mittee on House Administration of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives, the Committee on Rules and Administration
20 of the Senate, the Committees on Natural Resources of
21 the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the
22 Committees on Appropriations of the House of Represent-
23 atives and the Senate recommendations for a legislative
24 plan of action to create and construct the Museum.

1 (e) NATIONAL CONFERENCE.—In carrying out its
 2 functions under this section, the Commission may convene
 3 a national conference on the Museum, comprised of indi-
 4 viduals committed to the advancement of American Latino
 5 life, art, history, and culture, not later than 18 months
 6 after the commission members are selected.

7 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

8 (a) FACILITIES AND SUPPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF
 9 THE INTERIOR.—The Department of the Interior shall
 10 provide from funds appropriated for this purpose adminis-
 11 trative services, facilities, and funds necessary for the per-
 12 formance of the Commission’s functions. These funds shall
 13 be made available prior to any meetings of the Commis-
 14 sion.

15 (b) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Commis-
 16 sion who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Gov-
 17 ernment may receive compensation for each day on which
 18 the member is engaged in the work of the Commission,
 19 at a daily rate to be determined by the Secretary of the
 20 Interior.

21 (c) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall be enti-
 22 tled to travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of sub-
 23 sistence, in accordance with applicable provisions under
 24 subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

1 (d) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The
2 Commission is not subject to the provisions of the Federal
3 Advisory Committee Act.

4 **SEC. 5. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF REPORTS; TERMI-**
5 **NATION.**

6 (a) DEADLINE.—The Commission shall submit final
7 versions of the reports and plans required under section
8 3 not later than 24 months after the date of the Commis-
9 sion's first meeting.

10 (b) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
11 not later than 30 days after submitting the final versions
12 of reports and plans pursuant to subsection (a).

13 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There are authorized to be appropriated for carrying
15 out the activities of the Commission \$2,100,000 for the
16 first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of
17 this Act and \$1,100,000 for the second fiscal year begin-
18 ning after the date of enactment of this Act.

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