

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4776

To prohibit the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution from charging a fee for admission to any exhibit which is part of the permanent collection of any museum or facility which is part of any bureau established in or under the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2010

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on House Administration

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## A BILL

To prohibit the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution from charging a fee for admission to any exhibit which is part of the permanent collection of any museum or facility which is part of any bureau established in or under the Smithsonian Institution, 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. PROHIBITING CHARGING OF FEES FOR ADMIS-**  
2 **SION TO PERMANENT COLLECTIONS OF**  
3 **SMITHSONIAN MUSEUMS OR FACILITIES.**

4 (a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsections  
5 (a) and (b), the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution  
6 may not charge a fee for admission to any exhibit which  
7 is part of the permanent collection of any museum or facil-  
8 ity which is part of any bureau established in or under  
9 the Smithsonian Institution, including the National Gal-  
10 lery of Art.

11 (b) EXCEPTION FOR NECESSARY AND UNAVOIDABLE  
12 FEES.—The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution may  
13 charge a fee for admission to an exhibit described in sub-  
14 section (a) if—

15 (1) the Secretary determines that charging a  
16 fee for admission to the exhibit is necessary and un-  
17 avoidable;

18 (2) the Secretary submits a statement explain-  
19 ing the determination to the Committee on House  
20 Administration of the House of Representatives, the  
21 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of  
22 the House of Representatives, the Committee on En-  
23 vironment and Public Works of the Senate, and the  
24 Committee on Rules and Administration of the Sen-  
25 ate; and

1           (3) the charging of the fee does not take effect  
2           until after the expiration of the 45-day period which  
3           begins on the date the Secretary submits the state-  
4           ment under paragraph (1).

5           (c) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN CURRENT EXHIBIT.—

6           This section does not apply to the exhibit entitled “Butter-  
7           flies and Plants: Partners in Evolution” at the National  
8           Museum of Natural History.

9           **SEC. 2. PLAN FOR ELIMINATION OF FEE FOR CURRENT EX-**  
10                                   **HIBIT.**

11           Not later than one year after the date of the enact-  
12           ment of this Act, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institu-  
13           tion shall submit to the Committee on House Administra-  
14           tion of the House of Representatives, the Committee on  
15           Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-  
16           resentatives, the Committee on Environment and Public  
17           Works of the Senate, and the Committee on Rules and  
18           Administration of the Senate a plan for eliminating the  
19           admission fee for the exhibit entitled “Butterflies and  
20           Plants: Partners in Evolution” at the National Museum  
21           of Natural History, and shall include in the plan such  
22           steps as the Secretary considers appropriate to cover the  
23           expenses incurred in carrying out the exhibit.

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