

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 730

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of establishing the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center at the African Burial Ground National Monument, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Mrs. GILLIBRAND introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of establishing the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center at the African Burial Ground National Monument, 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 Burial Ground
5 International Memorial Museum and Educational Center
6 Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) MUSEUM.—The term “Museum” means the
4 African Burial Ground International Memorial Mu-
5 seum and Educational Center.

6 (2) NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The term “Na-
7 tional Monument” means the African Burial Ground
8 National Monument in the city of New York, New
9 York.

10 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
12 rector of the National Park Service.

13 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
14 of New York.

15 **SEC. 3. AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND INTERNATIONAL MEMO-**
16 **RIAL MUSEUM AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER**
17 **STUDY.**

18 (a) STUDY.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
20 tion with State and local historic preservation offi-
21 cers, State and local historical societies, State and
22 local tourism offices, and other appropriate organi-
23 zations and government agencies, shall conduct a
24 study to assess the suitability and feasibility of es-
25 tablishing a museum and educational center at the
26 National Monument, to be known as the “African

1 Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and
2 Educational Center”’—

3 (A) to serve as a permanent living memo-
4 rial and special tribute—

5 (i) to the enslaved who are buried at
6 the African Burial Ground; and

7 (ii) to other Africans who were
8 enslaved in the United States and other
9 parts of the world;

10 (B) to reflect on the significance of the Af-
11 rican Burial Ground;

12 (C) to examine the African cultural tradi-
13 tions brought to the United States by the
14 enslaved;

15 (D) to explore in-depth the institution of
16 slavery in the United States and other parts of
17 the world;

18 (E) to provide a space for—

19 (i) permanent and temporary exhibits;
20 and

21 (ii) the collection and study of arti-
22 facts and documents;

23 (F) to encourage collaboration between the
24 Museum and the National Museum of African
25 American History and Culture, other museums,

1 historically Black colleges and universities, his-
2 torical societies, educational institutions, and
3 other appropriate entities and organizations,
4 such as the African Burial Ground Memorial
5 Foundation, including collaboration with respect
6 to—

7 (i) the development of cooperative pro-
8 grams and exhibitions, including through
9 digital, electronic, and interactive tech-
10 nologies;

11 (ii) the identification, management,
12 and care of Museum collections; and

13 (iii) the training of Museum and Na-
14 tional Park Service professionals and other
15 persons concerned with heritage preserva-
16 tion; and

17 (G) in addition to any collaboration en-
18 couraged under subparagraph (F), to be associ-
19 ated with the National Museum of African
20 American History and Culture, in a manner to
21 be determined by the Secretary, in consultation
22 with the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian
23 Institution.

1 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study conducted
2 under paragraph (1) shall include analysis, docu-
3 mentation, and determinations regarding whether—

4 (A) there is an assemblage of collections to
5 be acquired and housed in the Museum that—

6 (i) represent distinctive aspects of Af-
7 rican cultural traditions brought to the
8 United States by the enslaved;

9 (ii) are worthy of recognition, con-
10 servation, and interpretation;

11 (iii) are important to any identified
12 themes of the Museum;

13 (iv) include DNA samples of well-pre-
14 served human remains that would enable
15 researchers to trace home “roots” in Afri-
16 ca of those individuals buried at the Afri-
17 can Burial Ground; and

18 (v) are unlike any other anthropo-
19 logical collection in other symbolic sites;

20 (B) the Museum provides outstanding op-
21 portunities—

22 (i) to understand how the inter-
23 national slave trade contributed to the Af-
24 rican diaspora;

1 (ii) to explore in-depth the institution
2 of slavery, as practiced in other parts of
3 the world and in urban, rural, northern,
4 and southern parts of the United States;
5 and

6 (iii) to help the people of the United
7 States understand the past and honor the
8 history of all people in the United States;

9 (C) residents, business interests, State and
10 local governments, and nonprofit organizations,
11 such as the African Burial Ground Memorial
12 Foundation—

13 (i) are involved in the planning of the
14 Museum;

15 (ii) have developed a conceptual finan-
16 cial plan that outlines the roles of all par-
17 ticipants in the Museum, including the
18 Federal Government; and

19 (iii) have demonstrated support for
20 the designation of the Museum;

21 (D) the Secretary of the Interior, the Ad-
22 ministrator of the General Services Administra-
23 tion, or other potential management entities
24 would be best suited to operate the Museum;
25 and

1 (E) the public supports the proposed loca-
2 tion for the Museum at—

3 (i) 22 Reade Street, which is adjacent
4 to the National Monument; or

5 (ii) any area within the National
6 Monument other than the area described
7 in clause (i).

8 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
9 on which funds are first made available to carry out this
10 Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on En-
11 ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Com-
12 mittee on Natural Resources of the House of Representa-
13 tives a report that describes—

14 (1) the results of the study under subsection
15 (a), including a description of—

16 (A) the availability and cost of collections
17 to be acquired and housed in the Museum;

18 (B) criteria for evaluating possible loca-
19 tions for the Museum in the State; and

20 (C) the costs of acquiring property for,
21 constructing, operating, and maintaining the
22 Museum; and

23 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
24 Secretary.

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