

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6261

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 14, 2021

Mr. BOWMAN (for himself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. JONES, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. EVANS, Mr. NADLER, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BUSH, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HORSFORD, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. MENG, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BASS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. OMAR, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. GREEN of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “African American His-
3 tory Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

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

17 (2) **AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY EDUCATION**
18 **PROGRAM.**—The term “African American history
19 education program” means an educational program
20 relating to African American life, art, history, and
21 culture, including programs—

22 (A) using digital, electronic, and inter-
23 active technologies; and

24 (B) carried out in collaboration with ele-
25 mentary schools, secondary schools, and post-
26 secondary schools.

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

4 (4) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “early childhood
5 education program”, “elementary school”, “local
6 educational agency”, and “secondary school” have
7 the meaning given such terms in section 8101 of the
8 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
9 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

10 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

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

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

23 (2) Through a social justice and anti-bias lens,
24 convening experts, providing opportunities for dis-

1 course, and engaging with the public through pro-
2 gramming, educational resources, and social media.

3 (3) Through a social justice and anti-bias lens,
4 increasing resource capacity, technical support, and
5 content creation to engage various audiences in per-
6 son and via online platforms.

7 (4) Creating, expanding, and disseminating
8 scholarly work through research, curricula, in-house
9 and traveling exhibitions, publications, and program-
10 ming.

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

17 (6) Expanding the collection acquisition and
18 collection access processes, including staffing, con-
19 servation, processing, and digitization.

20 (7) Augmenting one or more of the following
21 African American history education program activi-
22 ties:

23 (A) Development, dissemination, and im-
24 plementation of principles of sound pedagogy
25 for teaching about African American history.

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

3 (i) local, regional, and national work-
4 shops;

5 (ii) teacher trainings or engagement
6 in conjunction with African American his-
7 tory education centers and other appro-
8 priate partners;

9 (iii) engagement with—

10 (I) local educational agencies;

11 and

12 (II) early childhood education
13 programs, elementary schools, and
14 secondary schools that are inde-
15 pendent of any local educational agen-
16 cy; and

17 (iv) operation and expansion of a
18 teacher fellowship program to cultivate and
19 support leaders in African American his-
20 tory education.

21 (C) Engagement with State and local edu-
22 cation leaders to encourage the adoption of re-
23 sources supported under this Act into curricula
24 across diverse disciplines.

1 (8) Creating, developing, implementing, repli-
2 cating, or taking to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-
3 based, field-initiated innovations for museum im-
4 provement, and evaluating rigorously such innova-
5 tions.

6 (b) ONLINE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY EDU-
7 CATION RESOURCES.—

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

15 (2) INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION.—The Direc-
16 tor may use such funds to distribute information
17 about the activities funded under this Act through
18 the website of the National Museum of African
19 American History and Culture, and may respond to
20 inquiries for supplementary information concerning
21 such activities.

22 (c) CONTINUATION OF ACTIVITIES.—To the extent
23 that the National Museum of African American History
24 and Culture is engaged in an activity described in sub-
25 section (a) or (b) on the date of the enactment of this

1 Act, the Director may use the funds appropriated under
2 section 5 to continue that activity.

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

4 (a) REPORT.—Not later than February 1 of each
5 year, the Director shall submit to the Congress, and make
6 available to the public, a report describing how the funds
7 made available under this Act have been used—

8 (1) to create and promote educational activities;

9 and

10 (2) otherwise to carry out this Act.

11 (b) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 6 months after the
12 date on which funding is first distributed under this Act,
13 and annually thereafter, the Director or the Director's
14 designee shall brief the Committee on House Administra-
15 tion of the House of Representatives and the Committee
16 on Rules and Administration of the Senate on the pro-
17 grams and activities carried out under this Act.

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

20 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
22 this Act \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 and each of the
23 4 succeeding fiscal years.

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