

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 309

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide funding for the National Law Enforcement Museum, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2025

Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. COSTA, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. MACE, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RYAN, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BACON, Mr. LALOTA, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide funding for the National Law Enforcement Museum, 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 “National Law Enforce-
5 ment Officers Remembrance, Support and Community
6 Outreach Act.”

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The National Law Enforcement Officers
4 Memorial and the National Law Enforcement Mu-
5 seum in Washington, DC represent the only law en-
6 forcement campus in the United States and serves
7 a critical national mission of honoring and remem-
8 bering those law enforcement officers who have died
9 in the line of duty, educating the public about the
10 important role of law enforcement in a democratic
11 society and working to reduce the number of line of
12 duty deaths and injuries among law enforcement.

13 (2) It is in the national interest to ensure that
14 the unique education and outreach programs of the
15 National Law Enforcement Museum be maintained
16 and enhanced.

17 (3) In 1984, Congress passed and President
18 Ronald Reagan signed into law a joint resolution to
19 authorize the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
20 Fund, Inc., to establish a National Law Enforce-
21 ment Heroes Memorial (Public Law 98-534) in
22 Washington, DC.

23 (4) Dedicated on October 15, 1991, the Na-
24 tional Law Enforcement Officers Memorial honors
25 Federal, tribal, State, and local law enforcement of-
26 ficers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the

1 safety and protection of our Nation and its people.
2 The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is
3 centered in the 400 block of E Street, NW, Wash-
4 ington, DC and is the nation’s monument to law en-
5 forcement officers who have died in the line of duty.
6 The Memorial was built entirely with private funds.

7 (5) In 2000, Congress passed and President
8 William J. Clinton signed into law the National Law
9 Enforcement Museum Act (Public Law 106–492),
10 which authorized the National Law Enforcement Of-
11 ficers Memorial Fund, Inc. to build and operate the
12 National Law Enforcement Museum on Federal land
13 in the District of Columbia to honor and commemo-
14 rate the service and sacrifice of law enforcement offi-
15 cers in the United States.

16 (6) In April 2016, construction began on the
17 National Law Enforcement Museum in the District
18 of Columbia across the street from the National Law
19 Enforcement Officers Memorial in Judiciary Square.
20 In October of 2018 the National Law Enforcement
21 Museum was completed and formally opened. No
22 Federal funds were used to build the Museum.

23 (7) The National Law Enforcement Museum’s
24 mission is—

1 (A) to honor and commemorate the ex-
2 traordinary service and sacrifice of America's
3 law enforcement officers;

4 (B) to serve as an important bridge be-
5 tween law enforcement's past and present, be-
6 tween the heroes of yesteryear and those who
7 have followed in their footsteps, and between
8 America's peace officers and the public they
9 serve; and

10 (C) to increase public understanding and
11 support for law enforcement and to promote
12 law enforcement safety.

13 (8) The programs of the National Law Enforce-
14 ment Museum play a critical role in educating the
15 public about the vital importance of law enforcement
16 in a democratic society, the critical role law enforce-
17 ment plays in protecting and serving the public, and
18 the sacrifices law enforcement officers have made to
19 serve in this role.

20 (9) The community education and outreach pro-
21 grams, activities, and special exhibits within the Na-
22 tional Law Enforcement Museum help bring local
23 law enforcement agencies closer to the communities
24 they serve, and help to foster a better understanding
25 between law enforcement and communities.

1 (10) The National Law Enforcement Museum’s
2 Officer Safety and Wellness education and outreach
3 programs and activities help provide local, State and
4 Federal law enforcement agencies with critical infor-
5 mation on best practices to reduce the number of
6 line of duty deaths and injuries and provide commu-
7 nities and the public with education concerning the
8 sacrifices made. These programs, activities, and spe-
9 cial exhibits are vitally important at a time when an-
10 nual line of duty deaths among law enforcement offi-
11 cers remain at an historically high level.

12 (11) Since the establishment in 1991 of the Na-
13 tional Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, and the
14 dedication of the National Law Enforcement Mu-
15 seum in 2018, the National Law Enforcement Offi-
16 cers Memorial Fund and the National Law Enforce-
17 ment Museum have worked cooperatively with local,
18 State and Federal law enforcement agencies to prop-
19 erly honor the sacrifices made by law enforcement,
20 and provide key programming to reduce the number
21 of law enforcement fatalities and injuries, and foster
22 better understanding between law enforcement and
23 the communities they serve.

24 (12) Law enforcement agencies around the
25 country are dedicated to continuous improvement

1 and innovation in officer and community safety, and
2 to building trust through community-based engage-
3 ment and interventions.

4 (13) Since 2020, there has been a significant
5 increase in the number of law enforcement officers
6 resigning or retiring. According to the Police Execu-
7 tive Research Forum, over the past three years there
8 has been an almost 24-percent increase in the num-
9 ber of law enforcement officers retiring, and more
10 than 47-percent increase in the number of law en-
11 forcement officers resigning.

12 (14) A number of law enforcement agencies
13 across the country remain under-staffed, and many
14 law enforcement agencies have been forced to declare
15 personnel emergencies and require mandatory over-
16 time.

17 (15) The resulting deficit in confidence and
18 support jeopardizes public safety. There is a critical
19 need to enhance public understanding and apprecia-
20 tion of law enforcement, and to improve the safety
21 and wellness of officers who serve our communities.
22 Fostering a more informed and positive relationship
23 between law enforcement and the public is essential
24 for societal safety and cohesion. A sustained national

1 effort to restore confidence and understanding in
2 law enforcement is urgently needed.

3 **SEC. 3. SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**
4 **MUSEUM.**

5 During the first seven fiscal years beginning after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior
7 shall award a grant to the National Law Enforcement Of-
8 ficers Memorial Fund for the expenses associated with op-
9 erating and enhancing the community outreach, public
10 education, and officer safety and wellness programs of the
11 National Law Enforcement Museum, including programs
12 to:

13 (1) Memorialize law enforcement heroes who die
14 in the line of duty and compile statistics on law en-
15 forcement fatalities and injuries.

16 (2) Honor and commemorate the extraordinary
17 service and sacrifice of America's law enforcement
18 officers.

19 (3) Develop and make available accurate, rel-
20 evant, and accessible resources to promote the un-
21 derstanding of law enforcement history and officer
22 safety and wellness training, which include digital
23 resources and other types of resources, such as print
24 resources and traveling exhibitions.

1 (4) Increase technical resources to better en-
2 engage the public in person and via online platforms
3 to educate and inform the public about community
4 policing and officer safety and wellness.

5 (5) Create, expand and disseminate scholarly
6 work through research, curricula, in-house and trav-
7 eling exhibitions, publications, and other outreach
8 initiatives.

9 (6) Expand the collection acquisition and collec-
10 tion processes, including staffing, conservation, proc-
11 essing, and digitization.

12 (7) Augment law enforcement history and offi-
13 cer safety and wellness education activities, includ-
14 ing the development, dissemination, and implementa-
15 tion of principles of sound pedagogy for teaching
16 about law enforcement history and officer safety and
17 wellness.

18 (8) Promote professional development including
19 local, regional, and national workshops; teacher
20 trainings; and partnerships with appropriate entities
21 to better educate and inform the public about law
22 enforcement history and officer safety and wellness
23 education.

24 (9) Engage with local and independent edu-
25 cational agencies and expand teacher engagement to

1 cultivate and support the development of leaders in
2 the teaching of law enforcement history and officer
3 safety and wellness education.

4 (10) Engage with State and local education
5 leaders to encourage the adoption of resources sup-
6 ported under this Act into curricula across diverse
7 disciplines.

8 (11) Create, develop, implement, replicate, or
9 take to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-based, field-
10 initiated innovations for museum and officer safety
11 and wellness improvement, and rigorously evaluate
12 such innovations.

13 (12) Provide for the free admission to National
14 Law Enforcement Museum for active and retired law
15 enforcement officers and family members of fallen
16 officers; and dedicated free admission hours for the
17 general public at least once a week.

18 (13) Develop online Law Enforcement History
19 and Officer Safety and Wellness Education Re-
20 sources for the general public and scholarly research.

21 **SEC. 4. PROGRESS REPORTS; CERTIFICATIONS.**

22 (a) PROGRESS REPORT.—For each of the first seven
23 fiscal years the National Law Enforcement Officers Me-
24 morial Fund shall submit a report to the Secretary of the
25 Interior that—

1 (1) documents, consistent with the funding pro-
2 vided from the Department, the progress in deliv-
3 ering public education, community outreach and offi-
4 cer safety and wellness programming; and

5 (2) provides a formal accounting of total
6 amounts of Federal funds expended during the fiscal
7 year.

8 (b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of
9 the Interior shall share this report with Congress every
10 fiscal year and make the report available on the U.S. De-
11 partment of Interior website.

12 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
14 appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to
15 carry out this section \$6,000,000 for each of the
16 first 7 fiscal years beginning after the date of the
17 enactment of this Act.

18 (2) EXCEPTION.—If in any fiscal year the
19 amount appropriated pursuant to the authorization
20 under paragraph (1) is not the full amount provided
21 by such paragraph, the Secretary may transfer such
22 sums as may be necessary from the National Park
23 Service, up to the amount specified in paragraph
24 (1), to carry out this section.

1 **SEC. 6. CONTINUATION OF ACTIVITIES.**

2 To the extent that the National Law Enforcement
3 Museum is engaged in an activity described on the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary may use the
5 funds appropriated under section 5 to continue that activ-
6 ity.

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