

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7740

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

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Mr. MFUME (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Mr. HIMES, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. TONKO, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. MENG, Mr. PETERS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CRAIG, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. STANTON, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. ROSS, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CROCKETT, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. FROST, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. BELL, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. MANNION, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. RANDALL, and Ms. SIMON) 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “African American His-
5 tory Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

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

19 (2) AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY EDUCATION
20 PROGRAM.—The term “African American history
21 education program” means an educational program

1 relating to African American life, art, history, and
2 culture, including programs—

3 (A) using digital, electronic, and inter-
4 active technologies; and

5 (B) carried out in collaboration with ele-
6 mentary schools, secondary schools, and post-
7 secondary schools.

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

11 (4) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “early childhood
12 education program”, “elementary school”, “local
13 educational agency”, and “secondary school” have
14 the meaning given such terms in section 8101 of the
15 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
16 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

17 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

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

24 (1) Developing and making available accurate,
25 relevant, and accessible resources to promote the un-

1 derstanding of African American history, which may
2 include digital resources and other types of re-
3 sources, such as print resources and traveling exhibi-
4 tions.

5 (2) Through a social justice and anti-bias lens,
6 convening experts, providing opportunities for dis-
7 course, and engaging with the public through pro-
8 gramming, educational resources, and social media.

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

13 (4) Creating, expanding, and disseminating
14 scholarly work through research, curricula, in-house
15 and traveling exhibitions, publications, and program-
16 ming.

17 (5) Providing language translation of the work
18 of the National Museum of African American His-
19 tory and Culture, including scholarly work, research,
20 traveling exhibitions, publications, programming,
21 pamphlets, and other information distributed about
22 activities funded under this Act.

23 (6) Expanding the collection acquisition and
24 collection access processes, including staffing, con-
25 servation, processing, and digitization.

1 (7) Augmenting one or more of the following
2 African American history education program activi-
3 ties:

4 (A) Development, dissemination, and im-
5 plementation of principles of sound pedagogy
6 for teaching about African American history.

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

9 (i) local, regional, and national work-
10 shops;

11 (ii) teacher trainings or engagement
12 in conjunction with African American his-
13 tory education centers and other appro-
14 priate partners;

15 (iii) engagement with—

16 (I) local educational agencies;
17 and

18 (II) early childhood education
19 programs, elementary schools, and
20 secondary schools that are inde-
21 pendent of any local educational agen-
22 cy; and

23 (iv) operation and expansion of a
24 teacher fellowship program to cultivate and

1 support leaders in African American his-
2 tory education.

3 (C) Engagement with State and local edu-
4 cation leaders to encourage the adoption of re-
5 sources supported under this Act into curricula
6 across diverse disciplines.

7 (8) Creating, developing, implementing, repli-
8 cating, or taking to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-
9 based, field-initiated innovations for museum im-
10 provement, and evaluating rigorously such innova-
11 tions.

12 (b) ONLINE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY EDU-
13 CATION RESOURCES.—

14 (1) WEBSITE.—The Director may use the funds
15 appropriated under section 5 to develop and main-
16 tain on the website of the National Museum of Afri-
17 can American History and Culture content des-
18 ignated for educators, students, and families to im-
19 prove their awareness and understanding of African
20 American history.

21 (2) INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION.—The Direc-
22 tor may use such funds to distribute information
23 about the activities funded under this Act through
24 the website of the National Museum of African
25 American History and Culture, and may respond to

1 inquiries for supplementary information concerning
2 such activities.

3 (c) CONTINUATION OF ACTIVITIES.—To the extent
4 that the National Museum of African American History
5 and Culture is engaged in an activity described in sub-
6 section (a) or (b) on the date of the enactment of this
7 Act, the Director may use the funds appropriated under
8 section 5 to continue that activity.

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

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

14 (1) to create and promote educational activities;
15 and

16 (2) otherwise to carry out this Act.

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

24 (c) SUNSET.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall cease to
25 be effective on September 30, 2030.

1 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the significance of accurate education of the
4 history of minority groups in America through a so-
5 cial justice and anti-bias lens should be recognized,
6 and the United States Federal Government should
7 strive for a leadership role in initiatives aimed at im-
8 proving the teaching of African American, Hispanic
9 and Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander,
10 and Native American history;

11 (2) the Director of the Smithsonian Museum of
12 the American Indian should be empowered to de-
13 velop and disseminate historically accurate materials
14 aimed at improving the teaching of Native American
15 history; and

16 (3) the Directors of the forthcoming Smithso-
17 nian American Women's History Museum and the
18 forthcoming Smithsonian National Museum of the
19 American Latino, as well as the directors of any fu-
20 ture Smithsonian Museums covering the history of
21 minority groups in America, should be empowered to
22 create and disseminate quality education materials
23 in their areas of expertise.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 and each of the
4 4 succeeding fiscal years.

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