

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1304

To permit the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino to be located within the Reserve of the National Mall, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 3, 2025

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MORENO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. GALLEGÓ, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To permit the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino to be located within the Reserve of the National Mall, 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 “Smithsonian National
5 Museum of the American Latino Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SITE OF SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE**
7 **AMERICAN LATINO.**

8 (a) AUTHORIZING SITE WITHIN RESERVE OF NA-
9 TIONAL MALL.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
 2 provision of law or regulation, including section
 3 8908(c) of title 40, United States Code, the Smith-
 4 sonian National Museum of the American Latino
 5 may be located within the Reserve (as defined in sec-
 6 tion 8902(a) of title 40, United States Code).

7 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
 8 201(g)(4) of division T of the Consolidated Appro-
 9 priations Act, 2021 (20 U.S.C. 80u(g)(4)) is amend-
 10 ed by striking “, except that” and all that follows
 11 and inserting a period.

12 (b) USE OF SITE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF AN-
 13 OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY.—Section 201(g)(2) of division
 14 T of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (20
 15 U.S.C. 80u(g)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

16 “(2) SITE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF AN-
 17 OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY.—

18 “(A) NOTIFICATION TO OTHER AGENCY OR
 19 ENTITY.—The Board of Regents shall not des-
 20 ignate a site for the Museum that is under the
 21 administrative jurisdiction of another Federal
 22 agency or entity without first notifying the head
 23 of the Federal agency or entity.

24 “(B) NOTIFICATION TO COMMITTEES.—
 25 Once notified under subparagraph (A), the head

1 of the Federal agency or entity shall promptly
2 submit written notification to the Chair and
3 ranking minority members of the Committee on
4 Rules and Administration, the Committee on
5 Appropriations, and the Committee on Energy
6 and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the
7 Committee on House Administration, the Com-
8 mittee on Natural Resources, the Committee on
9 Transportation and Infrastructure, and the
10 Committee on Appropriations of the House of
11 Representatives, stating that the Federal agen-
12 cy or entity was notified by the Board of Re-
13 gents that a site under its jurisdiction was des-
14 ignated and that a transfer will be initiated as
15 soon as practicable.

16 “(C) TRANSFER.—As soon as practicable
17 after the date on which the individuals de-
18 scribed in subparagraph (B) receive the written
19 notification described in such subparagraph, the
20 head of the Federal agency or entity shall
21 transfer to the Smithsonian Institution its ad-
22 ministrative jurisdiction over the land or struc-
23 ture that has been designated as the site for the
24 Museum.”.

1 (c) ENSURING DIVERSITY OF POLITICAL VIEW-
 2 POINTS AND AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES.—Section
 3 201(d)(2)(D) of division T of the Consolidated Appropria-
 4 tions Act, 2021 (20 U.S.C. 80u(d)(2)(D)) is amended to
 5 read as follows:

6 “(D) ENSURING DIVERSITY OF POLITICAL
 7 VIEWPOINTS AND AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Board of
 9 Trustees shall ensure that the exhibits and
 10 programs of the Museum accurately and
 11 comprehensively represent the varied cul-
 12 tures, histories, events, and values of His-
 13 panic or Latino communities.

14 “(ii) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—In
 15 carrying out its duties, the Board of Trust-
 16 ees shall ensure that it seeks and utilizes
 17 to its maximum ability guidance from a
 18 broad array of knowledgeable and re-
 19 spected sources reflecting the diversity of
 20 the political viewpoints and authentic expe-
 21 riences held by Hispanics or Latinos in the
 22 United States, and shall seek such guid-
 23 ance for both the creation and substantial
 24 revision of exhibits and programs.

1 “(iii) DEFINITIONS.—In this subpara-
2 graph—

3 “(I) the term ‘broad array’
4 means a range of experts and publica-
5 tions that represent the broad spec-
6 trum of Hispanic or Latino commu-
7 nities, to include varied viewpoints,
8 political ideologies, cultures, and lived
9 experiences in the United States; and

10 “(II) the term ‘knowledgeable
11 and respected source’ means an indi-
12 vidual who has gained through edu-
13 cation, publication, or witnessing an
14 important or historical event, the abil-
15 ity to advise on at least one unique
16 viewpoint or experience of a particular
17 Hispanic or Latino community, and
18 whose knowledge has been relied upon
19 by a notable segment of that commu-
20 nity for education, heritage preserva-
21 tion, or historical purposes, and in-
22 cludes the work of such an individual
23 which reflects such ability and knowl-
24 edge.”.

1 (d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 120
2 days after the date of enactment of this Act and every
3 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of the Smithsonian shall
4 submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the
5 House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and
6 Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on House
7 Administration of the House of Representatives, the Com-
8 mittee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, the
9 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
10 House of Representatives, the Committee on Appropria-
11 tions of the House of Representatives, and the Committee
12 on Appropriations of the Senate, a report on actions taken
13 by the Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of
14 the American Latino Museum and the Board of Trustees
15 of the Museum to comply with the requirements of the
16 amendments made by subsection (c), including a descrip-
17 tion of actions taken with respect to substantial revisions
18 of current exhibits and programs as well the planning of
19 future exhibits and programs.

20 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amend-
21 ments made by this section shall take effect as if included
22 in the enactment of section 201 of division T of the Con-
23 solidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (20 U.S.C. 80u).

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