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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R.

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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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MFUME introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# 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:

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

12          (2) AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY EDUCATION  
13          PROGRAM.—The term “African American history  
14          education program” means an educational program  
15          relating to African American life, art, history, and  
16          culture, including programs—

17                 (A) using digital, electronic, and inter-  
18                 active technologies; and

19                 (B) carried out in collaboration with ele-  
20                 mentary schools, secondary schools, and post-  
21                 secondary schools.

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

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

7   **SEC. 3. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

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

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

20                (2) Through a social justice and anti-bias lens,  
21                convening experts, providing opportunities for dis-  
22                course, and engaging with the public through pro-  
23                gramming, educational resources, and social media.

24                (3) Through a social justice and anti-bias lens,  
25                increasing resource capacity, technical support, and

1 content creation to engage various audiences in per-  
2 son and via online platforms.

3 (4) Creating, expanding, and disseminating  
4 scholarly work through research, curricula, in-house  
5 and traveling exhibitions, publications, and program-  
6 ming.

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

13 (6) Expanding the collection acquisition and  
14 collection access processes, including staffing, con-  
15 servation, processing, and digitization.

16 (7) Augmenting one or more of the following  
17 African American history education program activi-  
18 ties:

19 (A) Development, dissemination, and im-  
20 plementation of principles of sound pedagogy  
21 for teaching about African American history.

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

24 (i) local, regional, and national work-  
25 shops;

1 (ii) teacher trainings or engagement  
2 in conjunction with African American his-  
3 tory education centers and other appro-  
4 priate partners;

5 (iii) engagement with—

6 (I) local educational agencies;

7 and

8 (II) early childhood education  
9 programs, elementary schools, and  
10 secondary schools that are inde-  
11 pendent of any local educational agen-  
12 cy; and

13 (iv) operation and expansion of a  
14 teacher fellowship program to cultivate and  
15 support leaders in African American his-  
16 tory education.

17 (C) Engagement with State and local edu-  
18 cation leaders to encourage the adoption of re-  
19 sources supported under this Act into curricula  
20 across diverse disciplines.

21 (8) Creating, developing, implementing, repli-  
22 cating, or taking to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-  
23 based, field-initiated innovations for museum im-  
24 provement, and evaluating rigorously such innova-  
25 tions.

1 (b) ONLINE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY EDU-  
2 CATION RESOURCES.—

3 (1) WEBSITE.—The Director may use the funds  
4 appropriated under section 5 to develop and main-  
5 tain on the website of the National Museum of Afri-  
6 can American History and Culture content des-  
7 igned for educators, students, and families to im-  
8 prove their awareness and understanding of African  
9 American history.

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

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

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

24 (a) REPORT.—Not later than February 1 of each  
25 year, the Director shall submit to the Congress, and make

1 available to the public, a report describing how the funds  
2 made available under this Act have been used—

3 (1) to create and promote educational activities;

4 and

5 (2) otherwise to carry out this Act.

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

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

15 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

16 It is the sense of Congress that—

17 (1) the significance of accurate education of the  
18 history of minority groups in America through a so-  
19 cial justice and anti-bias lens should be recognized,  
20 and the United States Federal Government should  
21 strive for a leadership role in initiatives aimed at im-  
22 proving the teaching of African American, Hispanic  
23 and Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander,  
24 and Native American history;

1           (2) the Director of the Smithsonian Museum of  
2           the American Indian should be empowered to de-  
3           velop and disseminate historically accurate materials  
4           aimed at improving the teaching of Native American  
5           history; and

6           (3) the Directors of the forthcoming Smithso-  
7           nian American Women's History Museum and the  
8           forthcoming Smithsonian National Museum of the  
9           American Latino, as well as the directors of any fu-  
10          ture Smithsonian Museums covering the history of  
11          minority groups in America, should be empowered to  
12          create and disseminate quality education materials  
13          in their areas of expertise.

14 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15          There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
16          this Act \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 and each of the  
17          4 succeeding fiscal years.