

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9987

To establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Italian American History and Culture, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 11, 2024

Mr. SUOZZI (for himself, Mr. AMODEI, and Ms. BONAMICI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Italian American History and Culture, 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 “Commission To Study
5 the Potential of a National Museum of Italian American
6 History and Culture Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Commis-
3 sion to Study the Potential Creation of a National Mu-
4 seum of Italian American History and Culture (in this Act
5 referred to as the “Commission”).

6 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be com-
7 posed of 8 members, of whom—

8 (1) 2 members shall be appointed by the major-
9 ity leader of the Senate;

10 (2) 2 members shall be appointed by the Speak-
11 er of the House of Representatives;

12 (3) 2 members shall be appointed by the minor-
13 ity leader of the Senate; and

14 (4) 2 members shall be appointed by the minor-
15 ity leader of the House of Representatives.

16 (c) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Commission
17 shall be appointed to the Commission from among individ-
18 uals, or representatives of institutions or entities, who pos-
19 sess—

20 (1) a demonstrated commitment to the re-
21 search, study, or promotion of Italian American his-
22 tory, art, political or economic status, or culture;

23 (2) expertise or experience in—

24 (A) museum administration;

25 (B) fundraising for nonprofit or cultural
26 institutions;

1 (C) the study and teaching of Italian
2 American history;

3 (D) studying the issue of the representa-
4 tion of Italian Americans in art, life, history,
5 and culture at the Smithsonian Institution; or

6 (E) public or elected service that is exten-
7 sive;

8 (3) experience in the administration of, or the
9 planning for, the establishment of, museums; or

10 (4) experience in the planning, design, or con-
11 struction of museum facilities.

12 (d) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—Not
13 later than the date that is 90 days after the date of enact-
14 ment of this Act, the initial members of the Commission
15 shall be appointed under subsection (b).

16 (e) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission—

17 (1) shall not affect the powers of the Commis-
18 sion; and

19 (2) shall be filled in the same manner as the
20 original appointment was made under subsection (b).

21 (f) CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall, by major-
22 ity vote of all of the members, select 1 member of the
23 Commission to serve as the Chairperson of the Commis-
24 sion.

1 (g) PROHIBITION.—No employee of the Federal Gov-
2 ernment may serve as a member of the Commission.

3 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

4 (a) REPORTS.—

5 (1) PLAN OF ACTION.—The Commission shall
6 submit to the President and Congress a report con-
7 taining the recommendations of the Commission
8 with respect to a plan of action regarding the feasi-
9 bility of establishing and maintaining a National
10 Museum of Italian American History and Culture in
11 Washington, DC, and the environs of such museum
12 (in this Act referred to as the “Museum”).

13 (2) REPORT ON ISSUES.—The Commission shall
14 submit to the President and Congress a report that
15 addresses the following:

16 (A) The availability and cost of collections
17 to be acquired and housed in the Museum.

18 (B) The impact of the Museum on existing
19 Italian American history-related museums.

20 (C) The development of criteria, in con-
21 sultation with the Smithsonian Institution, for
22 evaluating possible locations for the Museum in
23 Washington, DC, and the environs of such Mu-
24 seum.

1 (D) The feasibility of the Museum becom-
2 ing part of the Smithsonian Institution, taking
3 into account the potential impact of the Mu-
4 seum on the Smithsonian's existing facilities
5 maintenance backlog, collections storage needs,
6 and identified construction or renovation costs
7 for new or existing museums.

8 (E) The governance and organizational
9 structure from which the Museum should oper-
10 ate.

11 (F) Best practices for engaging Italian
12 Americans in the development and design of the
13 Museum.

14 (G) The cost of constructing, operating,
15 and maintaining the Museum.

16 (3) DEADLINE.—Not later than the date that is
17 18 months after the date of the first meeting of the
18 Commission, the Commission shall submit the re-
19 ports required under paragraphs (1) and (2).

20 (b) FUNDRAISING PLAN.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall de-
22 velop a fundraising plan that shall address the abil-
23 ity to support the establishment, operation, and
24 maintenance of the Museum through contributions
25 from the public.

1 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the fund-
2 raising plan under paragraph (1), the Commission
3 shall consider issues relating to funding the oper-
4 ations and maintenance of the Museum in perpetuity
5 without reliance on appropriations of Federal funds.

6 (3) INDEPENDENT REVIEW.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
8 obtain an independent review of the viability of
9 the plan developed under paragraph (1).

10 (B) CONTENTS.—The independent review
11 under subparagraph (A) shall include an anal-
12 ysis as to whether the plan is able to achieve
13 the level of resources necessary to fund the con-
14 struction of the Museum and the operations
15 and maintenance of the Museum in perpetuity
16 without reliance on appropriations of Federal
17 funds.

18 (4) SUBMISSION.—The Commission shall sub-
19 mit to the Committees on House Administration,
20 Natural Resources, and Appropriations of the House
21 of Representatives and the Committees on Rules and
22 Administration, Energy and Natural Resources, and
23 Appropriations of the Senate the plan developed
24 under paragraph (1) and the review conducted under
25 paragraph (3).

1 (c) LEGISLATION TO CARRY OUT PLAN OF AC-
2 TION.—Based on the recommendations contained in the
3 report submitted under paragraphs (1) and (2) of sub-
4 section (a), the Commission shall submit for consideration
5 to the Committees on House Administration, Natural Re-
6 sources, and Appropriations of the House of Representa-
7 tives and the Committees on Rules and Administration,
8 Energy and Natural Resources, and Appropriations of the
9 Senate recommendations for a legislative plan of action
10 on the feasibility of establishing and constructing the Mu-
11 seum.

12 (d) NATIONAL CONFERENCE.—Not later than 18
13 months after the date on which the initial members of the
14 Commission are appointed under section 2(b), the Com-
15 mission may, in carrying out the duties of the Commission
16 under this section, convene a national conference relating
17 to the Museum, to be comprised of individuals committed
18 to the advancement of the life, art, history, and culture
19 of Italian Americans.

20 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

21 (a) COMPENSATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Commis-
23 sion—

24 (A) shall not be considered to be a Federal
25 employee for any purpose other than for pur-

1 poses of chapter 81 of title 5, United States
2 Code (relating to compensation for injury) and
3 sections 2671 through 2680 of title 28, United
4 States Code (relating to tort claims), except
5 that each such individual shall be—

6 (i) required to file an annual financial
7 disclosure under chapter 131 of title 5,
8 United States Code; and

9 (ii) considered to be a Federal em-
10 ployee for purposes of sections 201 and
11 208 of title 18, United States Code; and

12 (B) shall serve without pay.

13 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the
14 Commission shall be allowed a per diem allowance
15 for travel expenses, at rates consistent with those
16 authorized under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title
17 5, United States Code.

18 (3) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.—The
19 Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of
20 gifts, bequests, or devises of money, services, or real
21 or personal property for the purpose of aiding or fa-
22 cilitating the work of the Commission.

23 (4) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The
24 Commission shall not be subject to chapter 10 of
25 title 5, United States Code.

1 (b) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
2 on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the
3 final versions of the reports required under section 3 are
4 submitted.

5 (c) FUNDING.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be
7 solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for,
8 and payment of the expenses of, the Commission.

9 (2) PROHIBITION.—No Federal funds may be
10 obligated to carry out this Act.

11 (d) DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION.—

12 (1) DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may
14 employ and compensate an executive director
15 and any other additional personnel that are
16 necessary to enable the Commission to perform
17 the duties of the Commission.

18 (B) RATES OF PAY.—Rates of pay for per-
19 sons employed under subparagraph (A) shall be
20 consistent with the rates of pay allowed for em-
21 ployees of a temporary organization under sec-
22 tion 3161 of title 5, United States Code.

23 (2) NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Any indi-
24 vidual employed under this subsection shall not be
25 considered a Federal employee for any purpose other

1 than for purposes of chapter 81 of title 5, United
2 States Code (relating to compensation for injury)
3 and sections 2671 through 2680 of title 28, United
4 States Code (relating to tort claims), except that
5 each such individual shall be—

6 (A) required to file an annual financial dis-
7 closure under chapter 131 of title 5, United
8 States Code; and

9 (B) considered to be a Federal employee
10 for purposes of sections 201 and 208 of title
11 18, United States Code.

12 (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
14 graph (B), on request of the Commission, the
15 head of a Federal agency may provide technical
16 assistance to the Commission.

17 (B) PROHIBITION.—No Federal employees
18 may be detailed to the Commission.

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