

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of the American Latino, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. MENENDEZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To establish within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of the American Latino, 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 Museum of  
5 the American Latino Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The United States is a symbol of democ-  
9 racy, freedom, and economic opportunity around the  
10 world, and the legacy of Latinos is deeply rooted in

1 the very fabric of the history, democracy, freedom,  
2 and economic opportunity of the United States.

3 (2) There exists no national museum within the  
4 Smithsonian Institution that is devoted to the docu-  
5 mentation and explication of Latino life, art, history,  
6 and culture.

7 (3) The establishment of the National Museum  
8 of the American Latino will be consistent with the  
9 purposes of the Smithsonian Institution, created by  
10 Congress in 1846, “for the increase and diffusion of  
11 knowledge”.

12 (4) The National Museum of the American  
13 Latino—

14 (A) will be the keystone for people in the  
15 United States and other Smithsonian Institu-  
16 tion visitors to learn about Latino contributions  
17 to life, art, history, and culture in the United  
18 States at its signature location on the National  
19 Mall; and

20 (B) will serve as a gateway for visitors to  
21 view other Latino exhibitions, collections, and  
22 programming at other Smithsonian Institution  
23 facilities and museums throughout the United  
24 States and the territories of the United States.

1           (5) The National Museum of the American  
2 Latino will be unique among the museums of the  
3 Smithsonian Institution in that a significant number  
4 of the museum's staff will have joint positions  
5 throughout the various other museums and research  
6 centers of the Smithsonian Institution—

7           (A) resulting in a decreased need for re-  
8 sources for the National Museum of the Amer-  
9 ican Latino on the National Mall; and

10           (B) contributing to an integrated approach  
11 in telling the story of the United States in ex-  
12 hibits and collections throughout the Smithso-  
13 nian Institution.

14           (6) By sharing resources (including funding  
15 and staff) that are provided by direct appropriation  
16 to the National Museum of the American Latino and  
17 resources that are provided to other units of the  
18 Smithsonian Institution, the National Museum of  
19 the American Latino will serve as a key agent in  
20 stimulating and increasing Smithsonian Institution  
21 activities dedicated to the collection, preservation, re-  
22 search, and exhibition of Latino historical and cul-  
23 tural material reflecting the breadth and depth of  
24 the experiences of Latino history and culture  
25 throughout the Smithsonian Institution.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) BOARD OF REGENTS.—The term “Board of  
4 Regents” means the Board of Regents of the Smith-  
5 sonian Institution.

6 (2) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—The term “Board  
7 of Trustees” means the Board of Trustees of the  
8 National Museum of the American Latino as estab-  
9 lished by section 5.

10 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
11 the Director of the National Museum of the Amer-  
12 ican Latino.

13 (4) MUSEUM.—The term “Museum” means the  
14 National Museum of the American Latino estab-  
15 lished by section 4.

16 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
17 the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

18 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF MUSEUM.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
20 the Smithsonian Institution a museum to be known as the  
21 “National Museum of the American Latino”.

22 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Museum are—

23 (1) to illuminate the story of the United States  
24 for the benefit of all by featuring Latino contribu-  
25 tions; and

26 (2) to provide for—

1 (A) the collection, study, research, publica-  
2 tion, and establishment of exhibitions and pro-  
3 grams relating to Latino life, art, history, and  
4 culture that encompass—

5 (i) Latino contributions to the early  
6 history of what now encompasses the  
7 United States of America and its terri-  
8 tories;

9 (ii) Latino contributions in the armed  
10 services from the earliest days of the  
11 American Revolution to current military  
12 activities in defense of our freedoms;

13 (iii) Latino contributions to the free-  
14 dom, well-being, and economic prosperity  
15 of all people in the United States through  
16 historical movements;

17 (iv) entrepreneurial and charitable ac-  
18 tivities of Latinos;

19 (v) contributions by Latinos to—

20 (I) the social, natural, and phys-  
21 ical sciences; and

22 (II) art, history, and culture, in-  
23 cluding food, music, dance, film, the-  
24 ater, sports, and other forms of pop-  
25 ular culture in the United States; and

1           (B) collaboration between the Museum,  
2           other museums and research centers of the  
3           Smithsonian Institution, and other museums  
4           and educational institutions throughout the  
5           United States and abroad, to promote the study  
6           and appreciation of Latino life, art, history, cul-  
7           ture, and its impact on society in the United  
8           States, including collaboration concerning joint  
9           research projects, programs, exhibitions, collec-  
10          tion management, and training of museum  
11          staff.

12 **SEC. 5. BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**

13          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
14 the Smithsonian Institution a Board of Trustees of the  
15 Museum with the duties, powers, and authority specified  
16 in this section.

17          (b) DUTIES.—

18           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board of Trustees—

19           (A) shall—

20           (i) make recommendations to the  
21           Board of Regents concerning the location,  
22           planning, design, and construction of the  
23           Museum;

1                   (ii) recommend annual operating  
2 budgets for the Museum to the Board of  
3 Regents;

4                   (iii) adopt bylaws for the Board of  
5 Trustees;

6                   (iv) report annually to the Board of  
7 Regents on the acquisition, disposition,  
8 and display of Latino collections, objects  
9 and artifacts, and on other appropriate  
10 matters; and

11                   (v) advise and assist the Board of Re-  
12 gents on all matters relating to the admin-  
13 istration, operation, maintenance, and  
14 preservation of the Museum; and

15                   (B) may delegate the duties described in  
16 clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A) to  
17 the Director.

18                   (2) PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—Subject to  
19 the general policies of the Board of Regents, the  
20 Board of Trustees shall have the sole authority to—

21                   (A) purchase, accept, borrow, or otherwise  
22 acquire artifacts and other objects for addition  
23 to the collections of the Museum;

24                   (B) loan, exchange, sell, or otherwise dis-  
25 pose of any part of the collections of the Mu-

1           seum, with the proceeds of such transactions to  
2           be used for additions to the collections of the  
3           Museum; and

4           (C) specify criteria with respect to the use  
5           of the collections and resources of the Museum,  
6           including policies on programming, education,  
7           exhibitions, and research with respect to—

8                   (i) the life, art, history, culture, and  
9                   other aspects of Latinos in the United  
10                  States and the territories of the United  
11                  States;

12                   (ii) the role of Latinos in the history  
13                   of the United States from the arrival of  
14                   the first explorers to the Americas to the  
15                   present;

16                   (iii) the contributions of Latinos to  
17                   society and culture in the United States,  
18                   and exploring what it means to be an  
19                   American; and

20                   (iv) sharing how values in the United  
21                   States such as resiliency, optimism, and  
22                   spirituality are reflected in Latino history  
23                   and culture.



1           (3) OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.—Subject to the  
2           general policies of the Board of Regents, the Board  
3           of Trustees shall have authority to—

4                   (A) provide for preservation, restoration,  
5                   and maintenance of the collections of the Mu-  
6                   seum; and

7                   (B) solicit, accept, use, and dispose of  
8                   gifts, bequests, and devises of personal and real  
9                   property for the purpose of aiding and facili-  
10                  tating the work of the Museum.

11          (c) COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT.—

12               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board of Trustees shall  
13               be composed of not more than 19 voting members  
14               as provided under paragraph (2).

15               (2) VOTING MEMBERS.—The Board of Trustees  
16               shall include the following voting members:

17                   (A) The Secretary of the Smithsonian In-  
18                   stitution.

19                   (B) The Under Secretary of Museums and  
20                   Research of the Smithsonian Institution.

21                   (C) One member of the Board of Regents,  
22                   appointed by the Board of Regents.

23                   (D) Two Members of Congress, 1 from  
24                   each political party, designated by the Congres-

1 sional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional  
2 Hispanic Conference.

3 (E) Fourteen individuals who shall be ap-  
4 pointed by the Board of Regents after taking  
5 into consideration—

6 (i) efforts to have a politically and  
7 geographically diverse representation on  
8 the Board of Trustees reflecting States  
9 and territories with significant Latino pop-  
10 ulations;

11 (ii) individuals recommended by mem-  
12 bers of the Board of Trustees; and

13 (iii) individuals recommended by orga-  
14 nizations and entities that are committed  
15 to the advancement of knowledge of Latino  
16 life, art, history, and culture.

17 (3) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Board of  
18 Regents shall make initial appointments to the  
19 Board of Trustees under paragraph (2) not later  
20 than 180 days after the date of enactment of this  
21 Act.

22 (d) TERMS OF SERVICE.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this  
24 subsection, each appointed member of the Board of  
25 Trustees shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

1           (2) INITIAL APPOINTEES.—As designated by  
2 the Board of Regents at the time of appointment, of  
3 the voting members first appointed under subpara-  
4 graph (E) of subsection (c)(2)—

5           (A) Five members shall be appointed for a  
6 term of 1 year;

7           (B) Five members shall be appointed for a  
8 term of 2 years; and

9           (C) Four members shall be appointed for  
10 a term of 3 years.

11           (3) REAPPOINTMENT.—A member of the Board  
12 of Trustees may be reappointed, except that no indi-  
13 vidual may serve on the Board of Trustees for a  
14 total of more than 2 full terms. For purposes of this  
15 paragraph, the number of terms an individual serves  
16 on the Board of Trustees shall not include any por-  
17 tion of a term for which an individual is appointed  
18 to fill a vacancy under paragraph (4)(B).

19           (4) VACANCIES.—

20           (A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the  
21 Board of Trustees—

22           (i) shall not affect the powers of the  
23 Board of Trustees; and

24           (ii) shall be filled in the same manner  
25 as the original appointment was made.

1                   (B) TERM.—Any member of the Board of  
2                   Trustees appointed to fill a vacancy occurring  
3                   before the expiration of the term for which the  
4                   member's predecessor was appointed shall be  
5                   appointed for the remainder of that term.

6                   (e) COMPENSATION.—

7                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
8                   graph (2), a member of the Board of Trustees shall  
9                   serve without pay.

10                  (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the  
11                  Board of Trustees shall be allowed travel expenses,  
12                  including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates  
13                  authorized for an employee of an agency under sub-  
14                  chapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States  
15                  Code, while away from the home or regular place of  
16                  business of the member in the performance of the  
17                  duties of the Board of Trustees.

18                  (f) CHAIRPERSON.—By a majority vote of its voting  
19                  members, the Board of Trustees shall elect a chairperson  
20                  from its members.

21                  (g) MEETINGS.—

22                  (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board of Trustees shall  
23                  meet at the call of the chairperson or on the written  
24                  request of a majority of the voting members of the

1 Board of Trustees, but not fewer than twice each  
2 year.

3 (2) MEETING FORMAT.—Regularly scheduled  
4 meetings and special meetings may be conducted in-  
5 person, telephonically, electronically, or by any  
6 means appropriate as determined by the chairperson.

7 (h) QUORUM.—A majority of the voting members of  
8 the Board of Trustees holding office shall constitute a  
9 quorum for the purpose of conducting business, but a less-  
10 er number may receive information on behalf of the Board  
11 of Trustees.

12 **SEC. 6. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF MUSEUM.**

13 (a) DIRECTOR.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Museum shall have a  
15 Director who shall be appointed by the Secretary in  
16 consultation with Board of Trustees. The Secretary  
17 may appoint an interim Director to oversee the ini-  
18 tial activity of establishing the Museum until a per-  
19 manent Director is selected.

20 (2) DUTIES.—The Director shall manage the  
21 Museum subject to the policies of the Board of Re-  
22 gents and the Board of Trustees.

23 (b) STAFF.—The Secretary may appoint 2 additional  
24 employees to serve under the Director, except that such  
25 additional employees may be appointed without regard to

1 the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing  
2 appointments in the competitive service.

3 (c) PAY.—The employees appointed by the Secretary  
4 under subsection (b) may be paid without regard to the  
5 provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53  
6 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification  
7 of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

8 **SEC. 7. EDUCATIONAL AND LIAISON PROGRAMS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—

10 (1) PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED.—The Director of  
11 the Museum may carry out educational and liaison  
12 programs in support of the goals of the Museum.

13 (2) SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out this  
14 section, the Director shall—

15 (A) carry out educational programs relat-  
16 ing to Latino life, art, history, and culture, in-  
17 cluding—

18 (i) programs using digital, electronic,  
19 and interactive technologies; and

20 (ii) programs carried out in collabora-  
21 tion with elementary schools, secondary  
22 schools, and postsecondary schools; and

23 (B) consult with the Director of the Insti-  
24 tute of Museum and Library Services con-

1 cerning the grant programs carried out under  
2 subsection (b).

3 (b) GRANT PROGRAMS.—From amounts made avail-  
4 able to carry out this Act, the Museum Director, in con-  
5 sultation with the Director of the Institute of Museum and  
6 Library Services, may award grants in accordance with  
7 the purposes described in section 4(b).

8 **SEC. 8. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO**  
9 **BUILDING AND SUPPORT FACILITIES.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—

11 (1) LOCATION.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 24  
13 months after the date of the enactment of this  
14 Act, the Board of Regents shall designate a site  
15 for the Museum.

16 (B) SITES FOR CONSIDERATION.—In des-  
17 ignating a site under subparagraph (A), the  
18 Board of Regents shall select from among the  
19 following sites in the District of Columbia:

20 (i) The Arts and Industries Building  
21 of the Smithsonian Institution, located on  
22 the National Mall at 900 Jefferson Drive,  
23 Southwest, Washington, District of Colum-  
24 bia.

1           (ii) A vacant area bounded by Inde-  
2           pendence Avenue, Jefferson Drive, Raoul  
3           Wallenberg Place, and 14th Street South-  
4           west, currently under the jurisdiction of  
5           the National Park Service.

6           (iii) The area bounded by 3rd Street  
7           and 1st Street, Northwest and Constitu-  
8           tion Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue,  
9           Northwest, as measured from curb to curb,  
10          currently under the jurisdiction of the Ar-  
11          chitect of the Capitol.

12          (iv) The facility and grounds on the  
13          National Mall between 12th and 14th  
14          Streets, Southwest, and Jefferson Drive  
15          and Independence Avenue, Southwest, cur-  
16          rently under the jurisdiction of the Depart-  
17          ment of Agriculture.

18          (v) Any other appropriate location as  
19          identified by the Board of Trustees or  
20          Board of Regents.

21          (C) AVAILABILITY OF SITE.—

22           (i) IN GENERAL.—A site described in  
23           subparagraph (B) shall remain available  
24           until the date on which the Board of Re-



1           gents designates a site for the Museum  
2           under subparagraph (A).

3           (ii) TRANSFER TO SMITHSONIAN IN-  
4           STITUTION.—Except with respect to a site  
5           described in clause (i) of subparagraph  
6           (B), if the site designated for the Museum  
7           is in an area that is under the administra-  
8           tive jurisdiction of another Federal entity,  
9           as soon as practicable after the date on  
10          which the designation is made, the head of  
11          the Federal entity shall transfer to the  
12          Smithsonian Institution administrative ju-  
13          risdiction over the area selected for the site  
14          of the Museum.

15          (D) CONSULTATION.—The Board of Re-  
16          gents shall carry out its duties under this para-  
17          graph in consultation with the following:

18                 (i) The Chair of the National Capital  
19                 Planning Commission.

20                 (ii) The Chair of the Commission of  
21                 Fine Arts.

22                 (iii) The Chair and Vice Chair of the  
23                 Commission referred to in section 9.

1 (iv) The Chair of the Building and  
2 Site Subcommittee of the Commission re-  
3 ferred to in section 9.

4 (v) The Chair and ranking minority  
5 member of each of the following Commit-  
6 tees:

7 (I) The Committee on Rules and  
8 Administration of the Senate.

9 (II) The Committee on House  
10 Administration of the House of Rep-  
11 resentatives.

12 (III) The Committee on Trans-  
13 portation and Infrastructure of the  
14 House of Representatives.

15 (IV) The Committee on Appro-  
16 priations of the House of Representa-  
17 tives.

18 (V) The Committee on Appro-  
19 priations of the Senate.

20 (vi) The Architect of the Capitol.

21 (2) CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING.—The Board  
22 of Regents, in consultation with the Board of Trust-  
23 ees, the National Park Service, the Architect of the  
24 Capitol, the Capitol Police, the Commission of Fine  
25 Arts, the National Capitol Planning Commission,

1 and with other appropriate Federal and local agen-  
2 cies is authorized to prepare plans, design, and con-  
3 struct a building or modify an existing building for  
4 the Museum, which shall be located at the site se-  
5 lected by the Board of Regents under this sub-  
6 section.

7 (3) NONAPPLICABILITY OF PROVISIONS RELAT-  
8 ING TO MONUMENTS, COMMEMORATIVE, AND OTHER  
9 WORKS ON THE NATIONAL MALL.—Chapter 89 of  
10 title 40, United States Code, shall not apply with re-  
11 spect to the Museum.

12 (b) COST SHARING.—The Board of Regents shall  
13 pay—

14 (1) 50 percent of the costs of carrying out this  
15 section from Federal funds; and

16 (2) 50 percent of the costs of carrying out this  
17 section from non-Federal sources.

18 **SEC. 9. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF COM-**  
19 **MISSION.**

20 In carrying out their duties under this Act, the Board  
21 of Trustees and the Board of Regents shall take into con-  
22 sideration the reports and plans submitted by the Commis-  
23 sion to Study the Potential Creation of a National Mu-  
24 seum of the American Latino established under section

1 333 of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008  
2 (110 Public Law 229; 122 Stat. 784).

3 **SEC. 10. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE.**

4 Authority under this Act to enter into contracts or  
5 to make payments shall be effective in any fiscal year only  
6 to the extent provided in advance in an appropriations  
7 Act.

8 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING.**

9 (a) MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION.—Notwithstanding any  
10 other provision of law, the Board of Regents is authorized  
11 to allocate funds from the appropriations account appro-  
12 priated under the heading “FACILITIES CAPITAL” under  
13 the heading “SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION” for design,  
14 planning, and construction of the Museum established by  
15 this Act.

16 (b) MUSEUM OPERATION.—Notwithstanding any  
17 other provision of law, the Board of Regents is authorized  
18 to allocate funds from the appropriations account appro-  
19 priated under the heading “SALARIES AND EXPENSES”  
20 under the heading “SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION” for the  
21 operation of the Museum established by this Act.

22 (c) USE OF FUNDS FOR FUNDRAISING.—Amounts  
23 appropriated pursuant to the authorization under this sec-  
24 tion may be used to conduct fundraising in support of the  
25 Museum from private sources.