

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, HR. 2701

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2701

To direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 7, 2025

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. FRIEDMAN, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Fallen Servicemembers
3 Religious Heritage Restoration Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) An estimated 900 American-Jewish
7 servicemembers of the Armed Forces, killed in World
8 War I and World War II and buried overseas in
9 United States military cemeteries were, for various
10 reasons, mistakenly buried under Latin Crosses. In
11 most instances, those mistakes were made inadvert-
12 ently.

13 (2) In 2022, more than 2,000,000 people vis-
14 ited the United States World War I and World War
15 II cemeteries in foreign countries.

16 (3) American-Jewish servicemembers played a
17 vital role in the Allied victories in World War I and
18 World War II.

19 (4) American-Jewish servicemembers who
20 fought and died for the United States must have
21 their heritage properly recognized and honored.

22 (5) The United States Government has a sol-
23 emn responsibility to ensure that every American
24 servicemember killed in action and buried overseas is
25 properly honored.

1 (6) The work of properly identifying American-
2 Jewish servicemembers buried overseas is vital and
3 integral to the responsibility of the American Battle
4 Monuments Commission to ensure that past mis-
5 takes in honoring those servicemembers who died in
6 the line of duty are corrected.

7 **SEC. 3. FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE**
8 **RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The American Battle Monu-
10 ments Commission shall establish a program to identify
11 covered members and to contact survivors and descend-
12 ants of such covered members. Such program shall be
13 known as the “Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage
14 Restoration Program”.

15 (b) DURATION.—The Commission shall carry out the
16 Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration
17 Program during the first five fiscal years that begin after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act.

19 (c) CONTRACTS.—

20 (1) AUTHORITY.—During each fiscal year de-
21 scribed in subsection (b), the Commission shall seek
22 to enter into a contract with a nonprofit organiza-
23 tion under which such nonprofit organization shall
24 carry out the purpose described in subsection (a).

1 (2) TERM; AMOUNT.—Each contract under this
2 subsection shall be for one year and in the amount
3 of \$500,000 to the nonprofit organization.

4 (3) PRIORITY.—In awarding a contract under
5 this subsection, the Commission shall give priority to
6 a nonprofit organization that has demonstrated ca-
7 pability and expertise in carrying out the purpose
8 described in subsection (a).

9 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) The term “covered member” means a de-
11 ceased member of the Armed Forces who was Jew-
12 ish and buried—

13 (A) in a United States military cemetery
14 located outside the United States; and

15 (B) under a marker that indicates such
16 member was not Jewish.

17 (2) The term “nonprofit organization” means
18 an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the
19 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from
20 taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

21 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**
22 **PENSION.**

23 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,
24 is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and insert-
25 ing “January 31, 2032”.