

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3525

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2021

Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CASE, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. NADLER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. POCAN, Ms. CHU, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. JACOBS of California, and Mr. SOTO) 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

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## A BILL

To establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Commission To Study  
3 the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pa-  
4 cific American History and Culture Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established the Commis-  
7 sion to Study the Potential Creation of a National Mu-  
8 seum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture  
9 (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

10 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Commission shall be com-  
11 posed of 8 members, of whom—

12 (1) 2 members shall be appointed by the major-  
13 ity leader of the Senate;

14 (2) 2 members shall be appointed by the Speak-  
15 er of the House of Representatives;

16 (3) 2 members shall be appointed by the minor-  
17 ity leader of the Senate; and

18 (4) 2 members shall be appointed by the minor-  
19 ity leader of the House of Representatives.

20 (c) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Members of the Commission  
21 shall be appointed to the Commission from among individ-  
22 uals, or representatives of institutions or entities, who pos-  
23 sess—

24 (1)(A) a demonstrated commitment to the re-  
25 search, study, or promotion of Asian Pacific Amer-

1        ican history, art, political or economic status, or cul-  
2        ture; and

3            (B)(i) expertise in museum administration;

4            (ii) expertise in fundraising for nonprofit or cul-  
5        tural institutions;

6            (iii) experience in the study and teaching of  
7        Asian Pacific American history;

8            (iv) experience in studying the issue of the rep-  
9        resentation of Asian Pacific Americans in art, life,  
10       history, and culture at the Smithsonian Institution;  
11       or

12           (v) extensive experience in public or elected  
13       service;

14           (2) experience in the administration of, or the  
15       planning for, the establishment of, museums; or

16           (3) experience in the planning, design, or con-  
17       struction of museum facilities.

18        (d) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—The  
19       initial members of the Commission shall be appointed not  
20       later than the date that is 90 days after the date of enact-  
21       ment of this Act.

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

23           (1) shall not affect the powers of the Commis-  
24       sion; and

1           (2) shall be filled in the same manner as the  
2 original appointment was made.

3           (f) CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall, by major-  
4 ity vote of all of the members, select 1 member of the  
5 Commission to serve as the Chairperson of the Commis-  
6 sion.

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

8           (a) REPORTS.—

9           (1) PLAN OF ACTION.—The Commission shall  
10 submit to the President and Congress a report con-  
11 taining the recommendations of the Commission  
12 with respect to a plan of action for the establishment  
13 and maintenance of a National Museum of Asian  
14 Pacific American History and Culture in Wash-  
15 ington, DC (hereafter in this Act referred to as the  
16 “Museum”).

17           (2) REPORT ON ISSUES.—The Commission shall  
18 submit to the President and Congress a report that  
19 addresses the following issues:

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

22                   (B) The impact of the Museum on regional  
23 Asian Pacific American history-related muse-  
24 ums.

1 (C) Potential locations for the Museum in  
2 Washington, DC, and its environs.

3 (D) Whether the Museum should be part  
4 of the Smithsonian Institution.

5 (E) The governance and organizational  
6 structure from which the Museum should oper-  
7 ate.

8 (F) Best practices for engaging Asian Pa-  
9 cific Americans in the development and design  
10 of the Museum.

11 (G) The cost of constructing, operating,  
12 and maintaining the Museum.

13 (3) DEADLINE.—The reports required under  
14 paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be submitted not later  
15 than the date that is 18 months after the date of  
16 the first meeting of the Commission.

17 (b) FUNDRAISING PLAN.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall de-  
19 velop a fundraising plan to support the establish-  
20 ment, operation, and maintenance of the Museum  
21 through contributions from the public.

22 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the fund-  
23 raising plan under paragraph (1), the Commission  
24 shall consider issues relating to funding the oper-

1 ations and maintenance of the Museum in perpetuity  
2 without reliance on appropriations of Federal funds.

3 (3) INDEPENDENT REVIEW.—The Commission  
4 shall obtain an independent review of the viability of  
5 the plan developed under paragraph (1) and such re-  
6 view shall include an analysis as to whether the plan  
7 is likely to achieve the level of resources necessary  
8 to fund the construction of the Museum and the op-  
9 erations and maintenance of the Museum in per-  
10 petuity without reliance on appropriations of Federal  
11 funds.

12 (4) SUBMISSION.—The Commission shall sub-  
13 mit the plan developed under paragraph (1) and the  
14 review conducted under paragraph (3) to the Com-  
15 mittees on Transportation and Infrastructure,  
16 House Administration, Natural Resources, and Ap-  
17 propriations of the House of Representatives and the  
18 Committees on Rules and Administration, Energy  
19 and Natural Resources, and Appropriations of the  
20 Senate.

21 (c) LEGISLATION TO CARRY OUT PLAN OF AC-  
22 TION.—Based on the recommendations contained in the  
23 report submitted under paragraphs (1) and (2) of sub-  
24 section (a), the Commission shall submit for consideration  
25 to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure,

1 House Administration, Natural Resources, and Appropria-  
2 tions of the House of Representatives and the Committees  
3 on Rules and Administration, Energy and Natural Re-  
4 sources, and Appropriations of the Senate recommenda-  
5 tions for a legislative plan of action to establish and con-  
6 struct the Museum.

7 (d) NATIONAL CONFERENCE.—Not later than 18  
8 months after the date on which the initial members of the  
9 Commission are appointed under section 2, the Commis-  
10 sion may, in carrying out the duties of the Commission  
11 under this section, convene a national conference relating  
12 to the Museum, to be comprised of individuals committed  
13 to the advancement of the life, art, history, and culture  
14 of Asian Pacific Americans.

15 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

16 (a) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Commis-  
17 sion who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Gov-  
18 ernment may receive compensation for each day on which  
19 the member is engaged in the work of the Commission,  
20 at a daily rate to be determined by the Secretary of the  
21 Interior.

22 (b) FACILITIES AND SUPPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF  
23 THE INTERIOR.—The Department of the Interior shall  
24 provide from funds appropriated for this purpose adminis-  
25 trative services, facilities, and funds necessary for the per-

1 formance of the Commission's functions. These funds shall  
2 be made available prior to any meetings of the Commis-  
3 sion.

4 (c) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commis-  
5 sion shall be allowed a per diem allowance for travel ex-  
6 penses, at rates consistent with those authorized under  
7 subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

8 (d) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The  
9 Commission shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory  
10 Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

11 **SEC. 5. TERMINATION.**

12 The Commission shall terminate on the date that is  
13 30 days after the date on which the final versions of the  
14 reports required under section 3 are submitted.

15 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
17 priated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this  
18 Act.

19 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made available under  
20 subsection (a) shall remain available until expended, or  
21 until the termination of the Commission, whichever comes  
22 first.

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