

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide funding for the National Law Enforcement Museum, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide funding
for the National Law Enforcement Museum, 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 Law Enforce-
5 ment Officers Remembrance, Support, and Community
6 Outreach Act.”

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the National Law Enforcement Officers Me-
2 morial and the National Law Enforcement Museum
3 in Washington, DC, represent the only law enforce-
4 ment campus in the United States and serve a crit-
5 ical national mission of honoring and remembering
6 those law enforcement officers who have died in the
7 line of duty, educating the public about the impor-
8 tant role of law enforcement in a democratic society
9 and working to reduce the number of line-of-duty
10 deaths and injuries among law enforcement officers;

11 (2) it is in the national interest to ensure that
12 the unique education and outreach programs of the
13 National Law Enforcement Museum be maintained
14 and enhanced;

15 (3) in 1984, Congress passed and President
16 Ronald Reagan signed into law Public Law 98-534
17 (98 Stat. 2712), a joint resolution to authorize the
18 Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Inc., to
19 establish a National Law Enforcement Heroes Me-
20 morial in Washington, DC;

21 (4) dedicated on October 15, 1991, the Na-
22 tional Law Enforcement Officers Memorial honors
23 Federal, Tribal, State, and local law enforcement of-
24 ficers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the

1 safety and protection of the United States and the
2 people of the United States;

3 (5) the National Law Enforcement Officers Me-
4 morial is centered in the 400 block of E Street, NW,
5 in Washington, DC, and is the national monument
6 to law enforcement officers who have died in the line
7 of duty;

8 (6) the National Law Enforcement Officers Me-
9 morial was built entirely with private funds;

10 (7) in 2000, Congress passed and President
11 William J. Clinton signed into law the National Law
12 Enforcement Museum Act (Public Law 106–492;
13 114 Stat. 2210), which authorized the National Law
14 Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Inc., to build
15 and operate the National Law Enforcement Museum
16 on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor
17 and commemorate the service and sacrifice of law
18 enforcement officers in the United States;

19 (8) in April 2016, construction began on the
20 National Law Enforcement Museum in the District
21 of Columbia across the street from the National Law
22 Enforcement Officers Memorial in Judiciary Square;

23 (9) in October 2018, the National Law En-
24 forcement Museum was completed and formally
25 opened;

1 (10) no Federal funds were used to build the
2 National Law Enforcement Museum;

3 (11) the mission of the National Law Enforce-
4 ment Museum is—

5 (A) to honor and commemorate the ex-
6 traordinary service and sacrifice of law enforce-
7 ment officers in the United States;

8 (B) to serve as an important bridge be-
9 tween past and present with respect to law en-
10 forcement, between the heroes of yesteryear and
11 those who have followed in their footsteps, and
12 between the peace officers of the United States
13 and the public they serve;

14 (C) to increase public understanding and
15 support for law enforcement; and

16 (D) to promote safety in law enforcement;

17 (12) the programs of the National Law En-
18 forcement Museum play a critical role in educating
19 the public about—

20 (A) the vital importance of law enforce-
21 ment in a democratic society;

22 (B) the critical role law enforcement offi-
23 cers play in protecting and serving the public;
24 and

1 (C) the sacrifices law enforcement officers
2 have made to serve in that role;

3 (13) the community education and outreach
4 programs, activities, and special exhibits within the
5 National Law Enforcement Museum—

6 (A) help bring local law enforcement agen-
7 cies closer to the communities they serve; and

8 (B) help to foster a better understanding
9 between law enforcement officers and commu-
10 nities;

11 (14) the officer safety and wellness education
12 and outreach programs, activities, and special exhib-
13 its of the National Law Enforcement Museum—

14 (A) help provide local, State, and Federal
15 law enforcement agencies with critical informa-
16 tion on best practices to reduce the number of
17 line-of-duty deaths and injuries;

18 (B) provide communities and the public
19 with education concerning the sacrifices made;
20 and

21 (C) are vitally important at a time when
22 annual line-of-duty deaths among law enforce-
23 ment officers remain at a historically high level;

24 (15) since the establishment of the National
25 Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in 1991 and

1 the dedication of the National Law Enforcement
2 Museum in 2018, the National Law Enforcement
3 Officers Memorial Fund and the National Law En-
4 forcement Museum have worked cooperatively with
5 local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies—

6 (A) to properly honor the sacrifices made
7 by law enforcement officers; and

8 (B) to provide key programming—

9 (i) to reduce the number of fatalities
10 and injuries in law enforcement; and

11 (ii) to foster better understanding be-
12 tween law enforcement officers and the
13 communities they serve;

14 (16) law enforcement agencies around the
15 United States are dedicated to—

16 (A) continuous improvement and innova-
17 tion in officer and community safety; and

18 (B) building trust through community-
19 based engagement and interventions;

20 (17) since 2020, there has been a significant in-
21 crease in the number of law enforcement officers re-
22 signing or retiring;

23 (18) across the United States—

1 (A) a number of law enforcement agencies
2 remain understaffed and many law enforcement
3 agencies—

4 (i) have been forced to declare per-
5 sonnel emergencies; and

6 (ii) require mandatory overtime; and

7 (B) the resulting deficit in confidence and
8 support jeopardizes public safety;

9 (19) there is a critical need—

10 (A) to enhance public understanding of law
11 enforcement, which will enhance public appre-
12 ciation of law enforcement; and

13 (B) to improve the safety and wellness of
14 officers who serve communities across the
15 United States;

16 (20) fostering a more informed and positive re-
17 lationship between law enforcement officers and the
18 public is essential for community safety; and

19 (21) a sustained national effort to restore con-
20 fidence and understanding in law enforcement is ur-
21 gently needed.

22 **SEC. 3. SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**
23 **MUSEUM.**

24 During the first 7 fiscal years beginning after the
25 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior

1 shall award a grant to the National Law Enforcement Of-
2 ficers Memorial Fund for the expenses associated with op-
3 erating and enhancing the community outreach, public
4 education, and officer safety and wellness programs of the
5 National Law Enforcement Museum, including pro-
6 grams—

7 (1)(A) to memorialize law enforcement heroes
8 who die in the line of duty; and

9 (B) to compile statistics on law enforcement fa-
10 talities and injuries;

11 (2) to honor and commemorate the extraor-
12 dinary service and sacrifice of law enforcement offi-
13 cers in the United States;

14 (3) to develop and make available accurate, rel-
15 evant, and accessible resources to promote the un-
16 derstanding of law enforcement history and officer
17 safety and wellness training, which include digital
18 resources and other types of resources, such as print
19 resources and traveling exhibitions;

20 (4) to increase technical resources to better en-
21 gage the public in person and via online platforms
22 to provide education and information to the public
23 about community policing and officer safety and
24 wellness;

1 (5) to create, expand, and disseminate scholarly
2 work through research, curricula, in-house and trav-
3 eling exhibitions, publications, and other outreach
4 initiatives;

5 (6) to expand the collection acquisition and col-
6 lection processes, including staffing, conservation,
7 processing, and digitization;

8 (7) to augment law enforcement history and of-
9 ficer safety and wellness education activities, includ-
10 ing the development, dissemination, and implementa-
11 tion of principles of sound pedagogy for teaching
12 about law enforcement history and officer safety and
13 wellness;

14 (8) to promote professional development, in-
15 cluding through—

16 (A) local, regional, and national work-
17 shops;

18 (B) teacher trainings; and

19 (C) partnerships with appropriate entities
20 to better educate and inform the public about
21 law enforcement history and officer safety and
22 wellness education;

23 (9) to engage with local and independent edu-
24 cational agencies and expand teacher engagement to
25 cultivate and support the development of leaders in

1 the teaching of law enforcement history and officer
2 safety and wellness education;

3 (10) to engage with State and local education
4 leaders to encourage the adoption of resources sup-
5 ported under this Act into curricula across diverse
6 disciplines;

7 (11)(A) to create, develop, implement, replicate,
8 or take to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-based,
9 field-initiated innovations for improving—

10 (i) the National Law Enforcement Mu-
11 seum; and

12 (ii) officer safety and wellness; and

13 (B) to rigorously evaluate those innovations;

14 (12) to provide—

15 (A) free admission to the National Law
16 Enforcement Museum for—

17 (i) active and retired law enforcement
18 officers; and

19 (ii) family members of fallen law en-
20 forcement officers; and

21 (B) dedicated free admission hours for the
22 general public at least once a week; and

23 (13) to develop online law enforcement history
24 and officer safety and wellness education resources
25 for the general public and scholarly research.

1 **SEC. 4. PROGRESS REPORTS; ACCOUNTING.**

2 (a) PROGRESS REPORTS.—For each of the first 7 fis-
3 cal years beginning after the date of enactment of this
4 Act, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
5 Fund shall submit to the Secretary of the Interior a report
6 that—

7 (1) documents, consistent with the funding pro-
8 vided by the Secretary of the Interior under section
9 3, the progress in delivering public education, com-
10 munity outreach, and officer safety and wellness
11 programming; and

12 (2) provides a formal accounting of the total
13 amount of Federal funds expended during the fiscal
14 year by the National Law Enforcement Officers Me-
15 morial Fund.

16 (b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of
17 the Interior shall submit to Congress and make publicly
18 available on the website of the Department of the Interior
19 each report submitted under subsection (a).

20 **SEC. 5. CONTINUATION OF ACTIVITIES.**

21 To the extent that the National Law Enforcement
22 Museum is engaged in an activity described in section 3
23 on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
24 Interior may use the funds appropriated under section 6
25 to continue that activity.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
3 retary of the Interior to carry out this Act \$6,000,000
4 for each of the first 7 fiscal years beginning after the date
5 of enactment of this Act.