



African American History Act (H.R. 765)

SECTION-BY-SECTION

Sec 1. Short Title

Names the act the “African American History Act”

Sec 2. Definitions

This section defines the following terms:

- AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY - includes the history of African peoples, beginning with the African diaspora through the 21st century, that illuminates the passage to the Americas, slavery, abolition, reconstruction, and the civil rights movement. Also includes the innovations, contributions, and impact of African Americans on American history, society, and the development of the United States.
- AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY EDUCATION PROGRAM - an educational program relating to African American life, art, history, and culture using digital, electronic, and interactive technologies carried out in collaboration with elementary schools, secondary schools, and post-secondary schools.
- DIRECTOR - Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC).
- ESEA TERMS - The terms early childhood education program, elementary school, local educational agency, and secondary school have the meaning given such terms in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7801).

Sec 3. Program Authorized

This section clarifies activities the Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture may choose to carry out using funds authorized under this act, including:

- Developing and making accessible resources to promote understanding of African American history, including digital resources, print resources, and traveling exhibitions
- Through a social justice and anti-bias lens, convening experts; providing discourse resources; and engaging with the public through programming, resources, and social media; and increasing resource and technical capacity to engage various audiences
- Creating, expanding, and disseminating scholarly work through research, curricula, exhibitions, publications, and programming
- Providing language translation for any NMAAHC work
- Expanding the collection, including through increased staffing, conservation, processing, and digitization
- Augmenting any of the following African American history education program activities:

- Development, dissemination, and implementation of sound pedagogy
- Provision of Professional Development through workshops; teacher trainings or engagement; engagement with LEAs, early childhood education programs, elementary schools, and secondary schools; and/or a teacher fellowship program
- Engagement with state and local leaders to encourage adoption of resources into curricula across diverse disciplines
- Creating, developing, implementing, replicating, or taking to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-based, field-initiated innovations for museum improvement.

This section also authorizes the Director to use appropriated funds to develop, maintain, and distribute online content for educators, students, and families to improve their awareness and understanding of African American History.

Sec 4. Annual Report and Briefings

Requires the Director to submit an annual report to Congress describing activities under this act by February 1 each year.

Sec 5. Authorization of Appropriations

Authorizes \$10 million over five years to carry out this Act.