

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S.

To establish a National Council on African American History and Culture within the National Endowment for the Humanities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. ALSO BROOKS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish a National Council on African American History and Culture within the National Endowment for the Humanities, 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 Council on
5 African American History and Culture Act of 2026”.

6 SEC. 2. COUNCIL ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND

7 CULTURE.

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
9 National Endowment for the Humanities a National

1 Council on African American History and Culture (re-
2 ferred to in this section as the “Council”).

3 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

4 (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Council
5 shall be composed of 12 members appointed by the
6 President, by and with the advice and consent of the
7 Senate.

8 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The members of the
9 Council shall be individuals who—

10 (A) are selected from among private citi-
11 zens of the United States who are recognized
12 for their broad knowledge of, expertise in, or
13 commitment to the preservation and celebration
14 of African-American history and culture;

15 (B) are not currently employees of the
16 Federal Government; and

17 (C) have established records of distin-
18 guished service, scholarship, or creativity.

19 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In appointing members
20 to the Council under paragraph (1), the President—

21 (A) shall give due regard to equitable rep-
22 resentation of women, people of color, and indi-
23 viduals with disabilities who are involved in the
24 humanities;

6 (C) shall ensure that 6 members are indi-
7 viduals affiliated with the Democratic party and
8 6 members are individuals affiliated with the
9 Republican party.]

10 (4) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson and
12 Vice Chairperson of the Council shall be des-
13 ignated by the President from among the mem-
14 bers of the Council. The Vice Chairperson shall
15 act as Chairperson in the absence of the Chair-
16 person.

17 [(B) PARTY AFFILIATION.—The Chair-
18 person and Vice Chairperson may not be affili-
19 ated with the same political party.]

20 (5) TERM OF OFFICE; VACANCIES; REAPPOINT-
21 MENT.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each member shall be
23 appointed for a term of 5 years, except as pro-
24 vided in subparagraphs (B) and (C).

5 (i) 6 shall be appointed for terms of
6 3 years, [3 of whom shall be individuals
7 affiliated with the Democratic party and 3
8 of whom shall be individuals affiliated with
9 the Republican party]; and

10 (ii) 6 shall be appointed for terms of
11 5 years, [3 of whom shall be individuals
12 affiliated with the Democratic party and 3
13 of whom shall be individuals affiliated with
14 the Republican party].

15 (C) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed
16 to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration
17 of the term for which the member's predecessor
18 was appointed shall be appointed only for the
19 remainder of that term. A member may serve
20 after the expiration of that member's term until
21 a successor has taken office.

22 (D) REAPPOINTMENT.—No member shall
23 be eligible for reappointment during the 2-year
24 period following the expiration of such mem-
25 ber's term.

1 (6) BASIC PAY.—

2 (A) RATES OF PAY.—Members shall re-
3 ceive compensation at a rate of 50 percent of
4 the daily rate of the highest rate of basic pay
5 payable for the senior-level positions classified
6 above GS-15 pursuant to section 5108 of title
7 5, United States Code, for each day (including
8 travel time) during which they are engaged in
9 the actual performance of duties vested in the
10 Council.

11 (B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member
12 shall receive travel expenses, including per diem
13 in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with appli-
14 cable provisions under subchapter 1 of chapter
15 57 of title 5, United States Code.

16 (7) QUORUM.—Nine members of the Council
17 shall constitute a quorum. The Council may not hold
18 hearings without a full quorum.

22 (c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Council shall be—

23 (1) to prepare an annual report to be submitted
24 to the Chairperson of the National Endowment for
25 the Humanities on the work of the National Endow-

1 ment to preserve and celebrate African-American
2 history and culture;

3 (2) to gather timely and authoritative informa-
4 tion concerning historical developments and cultural
5 trends in African-American history and culture, as
6 well as to monitor the work of museums and organi-
7 zations dedicated to the preservation of African-
8 American history and culture, and to analyze and in-
9 terpret such information for the purpose of deter-
10 mining whether national policy is necessary to fur-
11 ther support those efforts;

12 (3) to evaluate the various programs and activi-
13 ties of the National Endowment for the Humanities
14 for the purpose of determining the extent to which
15 such programs and activities are contributing, and
16 the extent to which they are not contributing, to the
17 successful preservation and celebration of African-
18 American history and culture, and to make rec-
19 ommendations to the President with respect to such
20 programs and activities;

21 (4) to develop and recommend to the Chair-
22 person national policies to foster and promote the
23 understanding of African-American history, the pres-
24 ervation of African-American culture, and the cele-
25 bration of African Americans as contributors to the

1 country's economic, cultural, and political success;
2 and

3 (5) to make and furnish such studies, reports
4 thereon, and recommendations with respect to mat-
5 ters of cultural preservation and African-American
6 history as the Chairperson may request.

7 (d) APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—Section 1013(a)(2)
8 of title 5, United States Code (relating to the termination
9 of advisory committees), shall not apply to the Council.

10 (e) TERMINATION.—The Council shall terminate 10
11 years after the date of enactment of this Act.