

## S 2548

400 Years of African-American History Commission Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

**Introduced:** Feb 11, 2016

**Current Status:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 626.

**Latest Action:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 626. (Sep 13, 2016)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2548>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** VA • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (6 total)

| Cosponsor                         | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]       | D · VA        |      | Feb 11, 2016 |
| Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA] | D · PA        |      | Apr 5, 2016  |
| Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE] | D · DE        |      | Apr 5, 2016  |
| Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]       | D · NJ        |      | Apr 6, 2016  |
| Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]      | D · HI        |      | Apr 11, 2016 |
| Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]            | R · MO        |      | Apr 14, 2016 |

### Committee Activity

| Committee                              | Chamber | Activity                   | Date         |
|--|---------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Energy and Natural Resources Committee | Senate  | Hearings By (subcommittee) | Jun 15, 2016 |

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

### Related Bills

| Bill        | Relationship   | Last Action   |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| 114 HR 4539 | Identical bill | <b>Sep 6, 2016:</b> Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 612. |

## 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act

(Sec. 3) This bill establishes the 400 Years of African-American History Commission to develop and carry out activities throughout the United States to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in the English colonies at Point Comfort, Virginia, in 1619.

The commission must:

- plan programs to acknowledge the impact that slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination had on the United States;
- encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, and economic organizations to organize and participate in anniversary activities;
- assist states, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration; and
- coordinate for the public scholarly research on the arrival of Africans in the United States and their contributions to this country.

(Sec. 5) The commission may provide: (1) grants to communities and nonprofit organizations for the development of programs; (2) grants to research and scholarly organizations to research, publish, or distribute information relating to the arrival of Africans in the United States; and (3) technical assistance to states, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration.

(Sec. 7) The commission must prepare a strategic plan and submit a final report to Congress that contains a summary of its activities, an accounting of its received and expended funds, and its recommendations.

(Sec. 9) The commission shall terminate on July 1, 2020.

## Actions Timeline

- **Sep 13, 2016:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Reported by Senator Murkowski with an amendment. With written report No. 114-350.
- **Sep 13, 2016:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 626.
- **Jul 13, 2016:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably.
- **Jun 15, 2016:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Senate Subcommittee on National Parks. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 114-502.
- **Feb 11, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 11, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S879)