

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1839

To amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the  
National Lighthouse Museum.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2021

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal  
charter to the National Lighthouse Museum.

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 Lighthouse  
5       Museum Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM.**

7       Part B of subtitle II of title 36, United States Code,  
8       is amended by inserting after chapter 1519 the following  
9       new chapter:

1   **“CHAPTER 1520—NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE**  
 2                                   **MUSEUM**

“Sec.

“152001. Organization.

“152002. Purposes.

“152003. Operation of museum.

“152004. Membership.

“152005. Governing body.

“152006. Powers.

“152007. Restrictions.

“152008. Duty to maintain corporate and tax-exempt status.

“152009. Records and inspection.

“152010. Service of process.

“152011. Liability for acts of officers and agents.

“152012. Annual report.

“152013. Definitions.

3   **“§ 152001. Organization**

4           “(a) FEDERAL CHARTER.—The National Lighthouse  
 5 Museum, incorporated in New York, is a federally char-  
 6 tered corporation.

7           “(b) EXPIRATION OF CHARTER.—If the corporation  
 8 does not comply with any provision of this chapter, the  
 9 charter granted by this chapter expires.

10   **“§ 152002. Purposes**

11           “The purposes of the corporation are as provided in  
 12 its constitution and bylaws and include the following pur-  
 13 poses:

14                   “(1) To collect, preserve, and interpret objects  
 15           related to the history and technology of lighthouses  
 16           and lightships located, in the past or present, at  
 17           sites throughout the United States.

1           “(2) To research, document, and disseminate  
2           information on the history and technology of Amer-  
3           ican lighthouses.

4           “(3) To create and maintain an archive of arti-  
5           facts and materials related to American lighthouses.

6           “(4) To foster research of American lighthouse  
7           history.

8           “(5) To serve as a contact point for public in-  
9           quiry and assistance with respect to American light-  
10          house history, research, education, collections, and  
11          programs.

12          “(6) To celebrate America’s lighthouse heritage  
13          through educational programs, publications, films,  
14          festivals, living history, lighthouse trails, con-  
15          ferences, and other such offerings.

16          “(7) To support other existing and future light-  
17          house museums, organizations, and sites.

18          “(8) To establish partnerships with other orga-  
19          nizations to attain the above goals.

20          “(9) To engage in any lawful act or activity  
21          necessary to further the purposes of the corporation  
22          under this section.

23   **“§ 152003. Operation of museum**

24          “(a) IN GENERAL.—The corporation shall operate a  
25          museum to be known as the National Lighthouse Museum

1 at the site of the former United States Lighthouse Service  
 2 General Depot located at what is now known as St.  
 3 George, Staten Island, New York.

4 “(b) STORAGE FACILITY.—The corporation shall op-  
 5 erate a storage facility located at or near the site described  
 6 in subsection (a) for the care, conservation, and mainte-  
 7 nance of artifacts in the collection of the corporation.

8 “(c) SUPPORT TO OTHER MUSEUMS.—The corpora-  
 9 tion shall provide support to other museums that interpret  
 10 the history of aids to navigation in the United States.

11 “(d) DESIGNATION OF COLLECTION.—The collection  
 12 of artifacts of the National Lighthouse Museum shall be  
 13 known as the National Lighthouse Collection.

14 “(e) EXCLUSIVE RIGHT.—The corporation shall have  
 15 the sole and exclusive right to use, in carrying out its pur-  
 16 poses, the name ‘National Lighthouse Museum’ and the  
 17 sole and exclusive right to the use of its corporate seal,  
 18 emblems, and badges as adopted by the corporation.

19 **“§ 152004. Membership**

20 “Eligibility for membership in the corporation and  
 21 the rights and privileges of members are as provided in  
 22 the constitution and bylaws of the corporation.

23 **“§ 152005. Governing body**

24 “(a) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—The board of trustees  
 25 of the corporation and the responsibilities of the board are

1 as provided in the constitution and bylaws of the corpora-  
2 tion.

3 “(b) OFFICERS.—The officers and the election of offi-  
4 cers of the corporation are as provided in the bylaws of  
5 the corporation.

6 **“§ 152006. Powers**

7 “The corporation has only the powers provided in its  
8 constitution, bylaws, and charter as granted by the Board  
9 of Regents of the State of New York and in the certificate  
10 of authority in any other State in which the corporation  
11 is, or shall be, qualified to do business.

12 **“§ 152007. Restrictions**

13 “(a) STOCK AND DIVIDENDS.—The corporation may  
14 not issue stock or declare or pay a dividend.

15 “(b) POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.—The corporation or a  
16 trustee or officer, acting as such trustee or officer, may  
17 not contribute to, support, or participate in any political  
18 activity or in any manner attempt to influence legislation.

19 “(c) DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME OR ASSETS.—The in-  
20 come or assets of the corporation may not inure to the  
21 benefit of, or be distributed to, a trustee, officer, or mem-  
22 ber during the life of the charter granted by this chapter.  
23 This subsection does not prevent the payment of reason-  
24 able compensation to an officer or reimbursement for ac-

1 tual necessary expenses in amounts approved by the board  
2 of trustees.

3 “(d) LOANS.—The corporation may not make a loan  
4 to a trustee, officer, or employee.

5 “(e) CLAIM OF GOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL OR AU-  
6 THORIZATION.—The corporation may not claim congres-  
7 sional approval or the authority of the United States Gov-  
8 ernment for any of its activities.

9 **“§ 152008. Duty to maintain corporate and tax-ex-**  
10 **empt status**

11 “(a) CORPORATE STATUS.—The corporation shall  
12 maintain its corporate status as a corporation incor-  
13 porated under the laws of the State of New York.

14 “(b) TAX-EXEMPT STATUS.—The corporation shall  
15 maintain its status as an organization exempt from tax-  
16 ation under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C.  
17 1 et seq.).

18 **“§ 152009. Records and inspection**

19 “(a) RECORDS.—The corporation shall keep—

20 “(1) correct and complete records of account;

21 “(2) minutes of the proceedings of its members,  
22 board of trustees, and committees; and

23 “(3) at its principal office, a record of the  
24 names and addresses of its members entitled to vote,  
25 if any.

1       “(b) INSPECTION.—Any officer or trustee, or any  
2 member entitled to vote (if any), or an agent or attorney  
3 of such officer, trustee, or member, may inspect the  
4 records of the corporation for any proper purpose at any  
5 reasonable time.

6       **“§ 152010. Service of process**

7       “The corporation shall comply with the law on service  
8 of process of the State of New York and in each State  
9 in which it carries on activities.

10       **“§ 152011. Liability for acts of officers and agents**

11       “The corporation is liable for the acts of its officers  
12 and agents acting within the scope of their authority.

13       **“§ 152012. Annual report**

14       “The corporation shall submit an annual report to  
15 Congress on the activities of the corporation during the  
16 prior fiscal year. The report shall be submitted at the  
17 same time as the report of the audit required by section  
18 10101 of this title. The report may not be printed as a  
19 public document.

20       **“§ 152013. Definitions**

21       “For purposes of this chapter—

22               “(1) the term ‘corporation’ means the National  
23 Lighthouse Museum, Inc., incorporated in New  
24 York; and

1           “(2) the term ‘State’ includes the District of  
 2           Columbia and the territories and possessions of the  
 3           United States.”.

4 **SEC. 3. CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**

5           The table of chapters at the beginning of subtitle II  
 6 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by inserting  
 7 after the item relating to chapter 1519 the following new  
 8 item:

**“1520. National Lighthouse Museum .....152001.”.**

