



AMERICA 250 FOUNDATION

### **States' Acts Establishing Entities To Commemorate The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of American Independence**

Eleven states have already established entities responsible for administering and organizing their individual commemorations of the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding with several others in the process of doing so.

The entities take one of two forms (or a hybrid of the two):

1. Direct an existing executive agency to plan, create, and administer the state's celebrations.
2. Create a new commission to plan, create, and administer the state's celebrations.

Legislation and executive language that established entities follows the brief summaries.

The national semiquincentennial commemoration is expected to include elements that increase emphasis on history education, particularly America's founding principles and documents, as well as preservation of, and visitation to historical parks and other cultural sites. The state entities which have been created emphasize the role of history education and tourism in their commemorations in varying degrees.

#### **Alabama**

The Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission. The commission was created through legislation and consists of 11 members including the governor, two members appointed by the governor, two members appointed by the lieutenant governor, four members appointed by the legislature, and two Alabamians serving as members of the US Semiquincentennial Commission. The American Village would be the "celebration capitol."

The commission is charged with promoting awareness and understanding of the principles of the Declaration of Independence, the winning of American independence, and of the establishment of America's system of constitutional self-government. This includes teaching students and increasing public knowledge and appreciation of the breadth of American history, the quest for "liberty and justice for all" including stories and contributions of the various people throughout American history and emphasizing the service and sacrifices of veterans.

## **Kentucky**

The Kentucky American Independence Semiquincentennial Commission was created through executive order. The commission is attached to the governor's office and serves as an advisory body to the Governor and the Secretary of Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet.

The commission consists of nine members:

- The Secretary of State
- The President of the Senate
- The Speaker of the House
- The Chair of the Historic Properties Commission
- The Chair of the Heritage Council
- The Secretary of Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet
- Three members appointed by the Governor

The Chair of the Commission is appointed by the Governor.

## **Maryland**

The Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission was created through executive order. The commission is administered by the Maryland Department of Planning and the Governor's Coordinating Offices. It is authorized to enter into a partnership with a tax-exempt organization in its work.

The commission consists of up to 29 members: 16 ex officios; 6 members of the general public appointed by the governor; 2 members appointed by the President of the Maryland Senate; 2 members appointed by the speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, and; up to 3 members of nonprofit organizations.

The Chair of the Commission is appointed by the Governor.

Among other things, the commission is charged with: developing an inclusive commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States and all its people through civic, cultural, and historical education, events, and programming; promoting the preservation of cultural and historical resources, and; creating model curriculum about the Revolutionary War period.

## **Michigan**

The governor has tasked the Michigan History Center and the Historical Society of Michigan to prepare that state's commemoration of the 250th anniversary.

## **New Jersey**

Enacted legislation in New Jersey directs the existing New Jersey Historical Commission to create a program to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence of the United States.

The legislation calls for the commission to enter into a contract with a [non-profit] private entity...to coordinate and plan the programs and observances of the State's semiquincentennial celebration" and calls for the establishment of an "advisory council" to support and guide the work of this public-private partnership, in part through fundraising assistance and promoting collaboration with state agencies.

New Jersey's bill also provides a \$500,000 annual appropriation to support semiquincentennial programs and staffing through June 30, 2028, \$200,000 of which is earmarked for the New Jersey Historical Commission, with the remaining \$300,000 to go to the state's selected non-profit partner.

## **North Carolina**

The North Carolina USA 250th Committee was created through executive action. The committee is led by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and includes representatives from several public and private organizations.

Representatives from the following organizations are members of the committee:

- State chapters of the Society of Cincinnati, Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Colonial Dames
- The North Carolina Museums Council and Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies
- Reenactor organizations
- The Division of State Historic Sites, the Division of State History Museums, and Tryon Palace
- The Historic Preservation Office, the Office of State Archaeology, and the Office of Historical Research and Publications
- Old Salem, Historic Bethania, Historic Murfreesboro, Historic Edenton, and Historic Hillsborough, and the Friends of the Moore's Creek Battlefield
- The land preservation community
- The North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs and the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission
- The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
- The Department of Public Instruction
- The State Library; and
- The National Park Service
- The North Carolina Humanities Council

## **Pennsylvania**

Legislation in Pennsylvania created a new entity entitled the *Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial*.

The legislation directs the new commission “to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania’s integral role in that event and the impact of its people on the nation’s past, present and future.”

Pennsylvania’s legislation specifies the size of its commission and who shall have authority to appoint commission members. The governor and certain legislative leaders have the power to make a specified number of appointments. The commission is to be comprised primarily of private citizens, along with several legislators, and ex-officio members primarily representing executive branch agencies.

The chairperson of the commission may hire staff for the commission.

The commission “may accept, use and dispose of gifts and donations of money, property or personal services... procure supplies, services and property...make contracts” and “expend...funds donated or received.”

## **South Carolina**

Legislation in South Carolina created a new entity entitled the *South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission*.

It vests in the commission the authority to “plan and execute...a proper observance of the Sestercentennial of the American Revolution in South Carolina, and in cooperation with the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust; a national organization, if any; and other similar commemorative organizations in other states.”

South Carolina’s legislation specifies the size of its commission and who shall have authority to appoint commission members. The governor and certain legislative leaders have the power to make a specified number of appointments. The commission is to be comprised of the Governor of South Carolina, the Chairman of the South Carolina Archives and History Commission, the Director of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and individuals appointed by the governor and state legislative leaders.

The staff of the commission consists of the staffs of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History as well as other individuals hired by the commission.

Funding for the commission shall be determined and provided by the South Carolina General Assembly.

## **Tennessee**

Legislation in Tennessee created a new entity entitled the *Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission*.

The legislation directs the commission to “plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, and recognize Tennessee's integral role in that event and the impact of its people on the nation's past, present, and future.”

Tennessee’s legislation specifies the size of its commission and that it would consist of ex-officio members consisting of legislators, state officials, the president of the Tennessee Sons of the Revolution, and the state regent of the Tennessee Society, Daughters of the American Revolution.

The commission “may accept, use, and dispose of gifts and donations of money, property, or personal services... procure supplies, services, and property” and “expend...funds donated or received in pursuance of contracts.”

## **Vermont**

The Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission was created by executive order to commemorate “the historic events that preceded and are associated with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution in the State of Vermont, in celebration of our present and in anticipation of the promising future of” Vermont.

The commission is limited to no more than 14 members and include the Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing, the State Historic Preservation Officer, the State Librarian, a representative of the Vermont Historical Society, and a representative from the University of Vermont. In addition, nine members shall be appointed by the Governor including a Revolutionary War historian, a member of a Revolutionary War reenactment group, a representative of the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs, and a representative of a Vermont history museum. The State Historic Preservation Officer serves as the Chair.

The Commission may designate nonprofit entities to accept private donations and public funds, grants, and donations.

## **Virginia**

Legislation in Virginia created a new entity entitled the *American Revolution 250 Commission* as an advisory body in the executive branch.

The legislation directs the new commission “formulate and implement a program for the inclusive observance of the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States and the Revolutionary War in Virginia.”

Virginia’s legislation specifies the size of its commission at 22 members consisting of 17 citizens and five ex officio representatives. The governor has the authority to appoint 12 members derived from a list provided by two state history organizations, four history organizations designate one member each, the American Battlefield Trust designates one member, and the Virginia Bar Association designates one member.

The commission is required to create an advisory council, led by a commission member, composed of citizen members who have a knowledge of relevant history or expertise.

A chairman and vice chairman of the commission will be elected by the commission’s membership.

The commission “solicit, accept, use, and dispose of funds appropriated by the General Assembly and any gifts, grants, donations, bequests, or other funds received by the Commission for the purpose of aiding or facilitating its work.”

**Contact: Shawn McBurney, [smcburney@america250.org](mailto:smcburney@america250.org), (202) 478-3883**

1 SJR10  
2 206959-3  
3 By Senators Orr, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Butler,  
4 Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Elliott, Figures,  
5 Givhan, Gudger, Holley, Jones, Livingston, Marsh, McClendon,  
6 Melson, Price, Reed, Roberts, Sanders-Fortier, Scofield,  
7 Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stutts, Waggoner,  
8 Whatley and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 02-FEB-21

1 SJR10

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4 ENROLLED, SJR10,

5 JOINT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA USA  
6 SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION.

7  
8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
9 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING:

10 (a) There is created the Alabama USA  
11 Semiquincentennial Commission. The principal purpose of the  
12 commission shall be to plan, promote, and implement where  
13 appropriate public celebrations and commemorations of the  
14 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July  
15 4, 2026, and of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of  
16 America.

17 (b) The commission is authorized to cooperate with  
18 the United States Semiquincentennial Commission created by  
19 Public Law 114-196, other national and state organizations  
20 engaged in commemoration and celebration of the United States  
21 Semiquincentennial, and other national, regional, state, and  
22 local public and private organizations having compatible  
23 purposes. It shall encourage various state agencies and  
24 organizations to work cooperatively to promote the  
25 Semiquincentennial.

1           (c) The commission shall consider promoting and  
2 encouraging as part of its celebratory and commemorative  
3 events, electronic media, printed products, symposia, and  
4 educational outreach all of the following:

5           (1) Awareness and understanding of the principles of  
6 the Declaration of Independence, of the winning of American  
7 independence in the American Revolutionary War, and of the  
8 establishment of America's system of constitutional  
9 self-government.

10           (2) Teaching students and increasing public  
11 knowledge and appreciation of the breadth of American history  
12 and the centuries-long quest for "liberty and justice for  
13 all." This includes sharing the stories and contributions of  
14 the various people who have populated the land, from  
15 indigenous peoples, explorers, British colonists, seekers of  
16 religious freedom, enslaved African Americans, and many others  
17 who are part of America's stories.

18           (3) Advancing the cause of liberty and American  
19 self-government and of the meaning of "E Pluribus Unum" ("From  
20 many, one"), through promoting civic knowledge and practice,  
21 including America's "Charters of Freedom" (the Declaration of  
22 Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights), and  
23 the constitutional features of self-government which emphasize  
24 the roles of active and engaged good citizens.

1           (4) Emphasizing the service and sacrifices of  
2 veterans of all generations who have secured and preserved  
3 American independence and freedom and encouraging Alabamians  
4 to honor them through our State's Veterans Register of Honor.

5           (5) Celebratory and commemorative events and  
6 activities throughout the State of Alabama and its sixty-seven  
7 counties and its many municipalities. The American Village  
8 campus of the Citizenship Trust ("Trust") chartered pursuant  
9 to Section 16-44A-30 et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, is  
10 designated as an Alabama "celebration capitol" of the  
11 commission and a national and regional welcome and education  
12 center for the United States Semiquincentennial.

13           (d) Membership of the commission shall consist of  
14 eleven voting members as follows:

15           (1) The Governor of Alabama who shall serve as  
16 Honorary Chair of the commission.

17           (2) Two members appointed by the Lieutenant  
18 Governor.

19           (3) Two members appointed by the President Pro  
20 Tempore of the Senate and two members appointed by the Speaker  
21 of the House of Representatives.

22           (4) Two members who are Alabamians serving on the  
23 United States Semiquincentennial Commission as certified by  
24 the executive officer of that commission.

1           (5) Two citizens at large, appointed by the  
2 Governor.

3           (6) Members shall serve for the life of the  
4 commission, provided any public official's expiration of his  
5 or her term shall create a vacancy, and all vacancies shall be  
6 filled in the same manner as originally appointed.

7           (e) The appointing authorities shall coordinate  
8 their appointments so that diversity of gender, race, and  
9 geographical areas is reflective of the makeup of this state.

10          (f) (1) The commission shall elect its chair, vice  
11 chair and any other officers it deems necessary and shall  
12 adopt its rules for establishment of a quorum and conduct of  
13 business.

14          (2) Commission members shall serve without  
15 compensation or expenses, but legislative members may receive  
16 legislative expenses.

17          (3) The chair, with concurrence of the commission,  
18 may designate the chief executive officer of an agency or  
19 non-profit organization created or chartered by legislative  
20 act, or another qualified individual, to serve as the  
21 executive officer and secretary of the commission. The  
22 executive officer shall serve without additional compensation  
23 but may be reimbursed for expenses as provided for state  
24 employees. He or she shall exercise such powers delegated by  
25 the commission, including the right to apply for, receive,

1 accept, deposit, and administer pursuant to commission  
2 authorization any federal, state, or local public or private  
3 funds given for express use by the commission for the  
4 Semiquincentennial.

5 (4) No elected public official serving on the  
6 commission shall be involved in soliciting any private funds  
7 or gifts for the commission.

8 (g) The chair of the commission, with concurrence of  
9 the commission, shall constitute one or more advisory  
10 committees to advise the commission. The committees may  
11 include such representatives as the respective executive  
12 officer or his or her designee of any of the following: The  
13 Alabama Department of Archives and History, the Alabama  
14 Department of Tourism, the Alabama Department of Education,  
15 the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the Alabama  
16 Community College System, the Alabama Department of Economic  
17 Development, the Alabama Department of Military Affairs, the  
18 Alabama Historical Commission, or the Alabama Department of  
19 Veterans Affairs; and representatives of presidents of  
20 Alabama's public colleges and universities, Alabama's  
21 historically black colleges and universities, community  
22 colleges, and various associations and organizations of city  
23 and county officials, state historical, educational,  
24 patriotic, civic, religious, military and veterans

1 organizations, and community improvement and other  
2 organizations.

3 (h) The commission shall make an annual written  
4 report and make any recommendations to the Governor and  
5 Legislature at least thirty days prior to the convening of  
6 each Regular Session of the Legislature, commencing in 2021  
7 and continuing through its final report in 2027. The  
8 commission shall consider and recommend ways for the state to  
9 commemorate the Semiquincentennial through state and local  
10 legacy projects for the state at large and for counties and  
11 municipalities, and ways to enhance educational programs and  
12 extended learning offered by local boards of education, the  
13 Department of Education, Citizenship Trust, relevant state  
14 agencies and departments, two and four year institutions of  
15 higher education, including historically black colleges and  
16 universities.

17 (i) The commission and its advisory committees shall  
18 be dissolved upon the adjournment of the Regular Session in  
19 2027.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR10

Senate 02-FEB-21

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives  
Adopted: 11-FEB-21

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By: Senator Orr



**MATTHEW G. BEVIN**  
GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**Secretary of State**  
Frankfort  
Kentucky

**2019-1101**  
**December 5, 2019**

**RELATING TO THE CREATION OF THE KENTUCKY AMERICAN**  
**INDEPENDENCE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America will occur in 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the founding of the United States of America is one of the most glorious and providential events in human history and should be celebrated accordingly; and

**WHEREAS**, Kentuckians made significant contributions to American independence; and

**WHEREAS**, Kentuckians in particular should be proud of the roles that their ancestors played in winning America's independence; and

**WHEREAS**, all Americans should be given opportunities to learn more about their national heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress enacted P.L. 114-196 to establish the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission in 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission was established to provide for the observance and commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and related events through local, state, national, and international activities planned, encouraged, developed, and coordinated by a national commission representative of appropriate public and private authorities and organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission has encouraged states to establish state-level commissions to help plan and coordinate activities within each state celebrating the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding:



**MATTHEW G. BEVIN**  
GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**Secretary of State**  
Frankfort  
Kentucky

**2019-1101**  
**December 5, 2019**

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Matthew G. Bevin, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Kentucky Constitution, Sections 69 and 81, and KRS 12.029, do hereby Order and Direct the following:

- I. The Kentucky American Independence Semiquincentennial Commission is hereby created and established as an advisory body of state government.
- II. The Commission shall be attached to the Governor's Office for administrative purposes.
- III. The Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the Governor and the Secretary of the Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet, and shall fulfill the following objectives:
  - a. Identify sites within Kentucky that have significance with respect to the Revolutionary War and American Independence, and develop plans to promote tourism and awareness of those sites;
  - b. Develop plans and programming to educate and inform the public about the founding of the United States;
  - c. Develop plans and programming to educate and inform the public about the contributions that Kentuckians made to founding of the United States;
  - d. Develop plans and programming to educate and inform the public about the principles underlying the American Revolution and the quest for freedom for all mankind;
  - e. Disseminate the aforementioned plans and any available programming materials to schools, local tourism commissions, chambers of commerce, and other such community groups.
  - f. Perform any and all other functions to assist the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission in carrying out its policies and programs within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- IV. The Commission shall consist of nine (9) members, with the Secretary of State, or his or her designee, the President of the Senate, or his or her designee, the Speaker of the House, or his or her designee, the Chair of the Historic Properties Commission, or his or her designee, the Chair of the Heritage Council, or his or her designee, the Secretary of the Tourism, Arts,



**MATTHEW G. BEVIN**  
GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**Secretary of State**  
Frankfort  
Kentucky

**2019-1101**  
**December 5, 2019**

and Heritage Cabinet, or his or her designee, all serving in ex officio capacities, along with three (3) members appointed by the Governor.

- V. The Chair of the Commission shall be appointed by the Governor.
- VI. The Commission shall meet upon the call of the Chair.
- VII. The Commission shall consult with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission as necessary to fulfill the Commission's objectives and to assist the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission in the fulfillment of its objectives.
- VIII. The Commission shall receive staff support, as needed, from the Governor's Office.
- IX. The Commission shall meet at least quarterly, and as often as required to fulfill its objectives.
- X. Members of the Commission shall not be compensated, but shall be reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses of attending meetings of the Commission.
- XI. The Commission shall, no later than April 1, 2023, submit a report to the Governor, the Secretary of the Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet, and the Commissioner of Education summarizing its activities and setting forth the plans and programming that it has prepared.
- XII. The Commission shall continue meeting and updating its plans and programming through the end of 2026, with updated reports submitted annually after 2023 to the Governor, the Secretary of the Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet, and the Commissioner of Education.
- XIII. The Commission shall cease to exist as of December 31, 2026.
- XIV. All cabinets, departments, commissions, boards, offices, and other agencies of state government, and any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to assist and cooperate with the Commission in implementing the provisions of this Order.

  
ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES  
Secretary of State

  
MATTHEW G. BEVIN, Governor  
Commonwealth of Kentucky



# The State of Maryland

## Executive Department

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

01.01.2021.03

#### Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission

- WHEREAS, The 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America will occur on July 4, 2026;
- WHEREAS, The United States Congress established the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to coordinate the commemoration and observance of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Revolutionary War, founding of the United States, and related events;
- WHEREAS, Maryland played host to the “Annapolis Tea Party” in October 1774, when the cargo ship Peggy Stewart was burned to the waterline after a tax dispute involving the Tea Act;
- WHEREAS, Marylanders began to call for American independence in 1775 with the issuance of the Bush Declaration — considered the first “declaration of independence” in the colonies — and the Annapolis Convention declaration that the Association of Freemen of Maryland must prepare for the colony’s defense;
- WHEREAS, Four prominent Marylanders signed the Declaration of Independence: Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, and Charles Carroll, the only Roman Catholic among the 56 members of the Second Continental Congress;
- WHEREAS, Maryland made significant contributions to the Revolutionary War by supplying material, resources, ships, and soldiers;

- WHEREAS, The courage and sacrifice of the First Maryland Regiment, known as the Maryland Old Line and Maryland 400, at the Battle of Brooklyn in 1776 helped save the Continental Army;
- WHEREAS, Baltimore served as a temporary capital for the colonies during the Continental Congress in 1776 and 1777;
- WHEREAS, The Maryland State House, the oldest state capitol in continuous legislative use, hosted the Continental Congress in 1783 and 1784, and is where George Washington came before Congress to resign his commission as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army;
- WHEREAS, The Maryland State House was the site of the ratification of the Treaty of Paris on January 14, 1784, which formally ended the Revolutionary War;
- WHEREAS, In September 1786, Maryland played host to the Annapolis Convention, where delegates discussed amendments to the Articles of Confederation and resolved to organize a Constitutional Convention; and
- WHEREAS, It is in the interest of the State to recognize Maryland's unique role in the American Revolution by undertaking commemorative activities that honor all Marylanders, and enhance our collective understanding of the past, present, and future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

- I. There is a Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission (the "Commission").
- II. Membership.
  - A. The Commission shall consist of the following members:
    - i. The Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;
    - ii. The Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;

- iii. The Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
- iv. The Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;
- v. The Maryland Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee;
- vi. The Secretary of General Services, or the Secretary's designee;
- vii. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee;
- viii. The Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, or the Director's designee; and
- ix. Up to six members of the general public with related or relevant background, expertise, or interest, appointed by the Governor.

B. The following are invited to be, and shall be upon acceptance, members of the Commission:

- i. Two members appointed by the President of the Maryland Senate;
- ii. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates;
- iii. The State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;
- iv. The State Archivist, or the Archivist's designee;
- v. The State Historic Preservation Officer, or the Officer's designee;
- vi. The Chair of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, or the Chair's designee;
- vii. The Chair of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, or the Chair's designee;
- viii. The Chair of the Maryland Commission for Women, or the Chair's designee;

- ix. The Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Counties, or the Director's designee;
    - x. The Executive Director of the Maryland Municipal League, or the Director's designee;
    - xi. A representative of the Judiciary, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland; and
    - xii. Up to three members from the nonprofit community, selected from the Maryland Center for History and Culture, the Maryland Humanities Council, Preservation Maryland, or other similar organizations.
  - C. The Governor shall appoint a chair from among the members of the Commission.
  - D. Members serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
  - E. The Commission shall be reflective and representative of the diverse communities, peoples, and regions of the State.
  - F. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
- III. The Maryland Department of Planning and Governor's Coordinating Offices shall provide the Commission with resources and staff as feasible and necessary for administering and facilitating the work of the Commission.
- IV. Members of the Commission may not receive any compensation for their services, but may be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of duties in accordance with the State Standard Travel Regulations and as provided in the State budget.
- V. The Commission shall:
- A. Adopt administrative and financial procedures for the transaction of business, including, but not limited to, the establishment of advisory groups, committees, or work groups;

- B. Consider entering into a partnership with a tax-exempt entity to support the purpose and work of the Commission;
- C. Coordinate, engage, and liaise with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, and other local, county, and state commissions, and private and public organizations and partners, including, but not limited to, the America 250 Foundation and the American Battlefield Trust;
- D. Develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive celebration, commemoration, and observance of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Revolutionary War, and founding of the United States of America, and all its people, through civic, cultural, and historical education, events, and programming;
- E. Hold at least semi-annual meetings:
  - i. At times and places to be determined by the Chair; and
  - ii. That are conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act;
- F. Promote the documentation, identification, and preservation of cultural and historical resources, including archives, buildings, landscapes, objects, and sites related to the Semiquincentennial;
- G. Create a model curriculum about the Revolutionary War period, its impact on Maryland, and the diverse people who supported and participated in the country's fight for independence;
- H. Serve as the State of Maryland's official representative for the Semiquincentennial, and all related activities, communications, and events; and
- I. Solicit, accept, use, and dispose of donations, funds, and gifts, in conformance with the Public Ethics Law, to support the goals and purposes of the Commission.

VI. The Commission shall further:

- A. Submit an Action Plan to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2021, that outlines the Commission's goals, mission, and recommendations; and
- B. Produce, by December 31 of each year, an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly that includes an update on the Action Plan, implementation benchmarks, related deadlines and schedules, and an accounting and enumeration of all contracts, donations, and gifts.

VII. The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2027.

Given Under my Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 14th Day of January, 2021.



*Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.*

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Governor

*John C. Wobensmith*

John C. Wobensmith  
Secretary of State



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II  
LT. GOVERNOR

December 23, 2020

Mr. Daniel M. DiLella, Chairman  
U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission  
P. O. Box 27840  
Washington, DC 20038-7840

Dear Chairman DiLella,

Thank you for your communication and your leadership in planning a commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation's founding that will offer an opportunity for education, civic involvement, and examination of the historic themes and values upon which our country is based.

At the time of the American Revolution, the British ruled what became Michigan. In fear that George Rogers Clark might march all of the way to the Straits of Mackinac, in 1780/81 they built the fort on Mackinac Island that was, for a while, our nation's second national park and remains one of the most beautiful places in America. The Treaty of Paris gave our state the shorelines of four of the five Great Lakes, making the American Revolution truly a seminal part of our history.

With that in mind, I am designating the directors of our private and our public statewide history organizations as Michigan's official points of contact for the commemoration of the Michigan USA 250<sup>th</sup> Committee. Larry Wagenaar is the executive director of the Historical Society of Michigan and Sandra Clark is the director of the Michigan History Center, part of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

They and their boards will collaborate to enlist the involvement of state and local museums, historical societies, archives, historic preservation organizations, educators, Native American tribes and libraries, including representatives of Michigan's diverse cultural groups and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission.

Their contact information is attached.

I look forward to Michigan's participation in this commemoration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor of Michigan

## **Attachment**

### **Larry J. Wagenaar**

Executive Director and CEO, Historical Society of Michigan  
Meijer Center for Michigan History  
7435 Westshire Dr.  
Lansing, MI 48917  
Phone: (517) 324-1828  
Fax: (517) 324-4370  
Email: [wagenaar@hsmichigan.org](mailto:wagenaar@hsmichigan.org)  
Website: [www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org)

### **Sandra S. Clark**

Director, Michigan History Center, Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Michigan History Center  
702 W. Kalamazoo  
P.O. Box 30740  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8240  
Phone: (517) 243-4041  
Fax: (517) 241-3647  
Email: [clarkss@Michigan.gov](mailto:clarkss@Michigan.gov)  
Website: [www.michigan.gov/mhc](http://www.michigan.gov/mhc)

## CHAPTER 103

**AN ACT** concerning the New Jersey Historical Commission commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes and making an appropriation.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

C.52:9P-15 Program for observance of 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of U.S. independence, first Constitution of this State.

1. a. The New Jersey Historical Commission shall formulate and implement a program for the observance of the historical aspects of the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States and of the first Constitution of this State, including but not limited to: historical activities; the creation and publication of historical documents and studies; cooperation with agencies responsible for the preservation or restoration of historic sites, buildings, art, and artifacts; establishing Statewide wayfinding signage for Revolutionary Era sites and markers and establishment of a State American Revolution visitor center; the arrangement of appropriate public ceremonies; planning for commemorative events, supported by a comprehensive marketing and tourism campaign, from calendar year 2024 through calendar year 2033; and the dissemination of public information regarding New Jersey's involvement in the American Revolution.

b. As part of the implementation of a program in accordance with subsection a. of this section, P.L.2018, c.103 (C.52:9P-15), the commission may enter into a contract with a private entity, to be referred to as a public-private partnership agreement, to coordinate and plan the programs and observance of the State's semiquincentennial celebration of the founding of the United States, and to ensure that the State is appropriately recognized for its role in the American Revolution. A private entity will be eligible to enter into the public-private partnership with the commission if:

(1) it is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization as defined in this section; and

(2) it is responsible for the maintenance and administration of a national heritage area dedicated to the history of the American Revolution as it relates to New Jersey.

Any partnership agreement between the commission and a private entity shall establish an advisory council to support and guide the work of the partnership. In addition to funds appropriated to the commission or the private entity related to the commemoration of the semiquincentennial anniversary of the founding of the United States, the advisory council shall undertake fundraising efforts and seek out sources of revenue for the partnership's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. The advisory council shall also develop collaborative activities with the Division of Parks and Forestry and the Division of Travel and Tourism for the planning and promotion of semiquincentennial programs and activities.

c. Any partnership agreement entered into between the commission and a private entity pursuant to this section, P.L.2018, c.103 (C.52:9P-15) shall expire no later than December 31, 2033.

d. As used in this act:

"Public-private partnership agreement" means an agreement entered into by the New Jersey Historical Commission and a private entity pursuant to subsection b. of this section, P.L.2018, c.103 (C.52:9P-15).

"Tax-exempt nonprofit organization" means a nonprofit organization that is exempt from federal taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Code, 26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3).

2. Beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 and ending in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, there shall be appropriated from the General Fund on an annual basis \$500,000, \$200,000 of which is to be dedicated to the New Jersey Historical Commission for the purpose of supporting semiquincentennial programs and staffing, and \$300,000 of which is to be dedicated to the private entity that enters into the public-private partnership agreement with the commission to make statewide upgrades to historical sites, for staffing, and for efforts to undertake significant capital improvements, in accordance with section 1 of P.L.2018, c.103 (C.52:9P-15).

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved August 17, 2018.

**PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL  
ACT - ENACTMENT**

**Act of Jun. 12, 2018, P.L. 136, No. 28**

**Cl. 71**

An Act

Establishing the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States  
Semiquincentennial; and providing for its powers and duties.

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The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Act.

Section 2. Definitions.

As used in this act, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Commission." The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial, or America250PA, established by this act. (Def. amended July 2, 2019, P.L.347, No.49)

"Pennsylvania pavilion." Pennsylvania's headquarters during the Semiquincentennial that showcases the Commonwealth's history, people, innovations, culture and resources.

"Secretary." The Secretary of Community and Economic Development of the Commonwealth.

Section 3. Establishment.

The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial, commonly known as America250PA, is established to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania's integral role in that event and the impact of its people on the nation's past, present and future.

(3 amended July 2, 2019, P.L.347, No.49)

Section 4. Composition.

The commission shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two members of the Senate, of whom:

(i) One shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate.

(ii) One shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(2) Two members of the House of Representatives, of whom:

(i) One shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(ii) One shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(3) Twenty members who must be private citizens, of whom:

(i) Four shall be appointed by the Governor.

(ii) Four shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate.

(iii) Four shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(iv) Four shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(v) Four shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(vi) One of whom shall be designated by the Governor as the Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial.

(4) The following individuals shall be ex officio nonvoting members of the commission:

(i) The secretary.

(ii) The Secretary of the Commonwealth.

(iii) The Attorney General.

(iv) The Auditor General.

(v) The State Treasurer.

(vi) The Chair of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

(vii) The Secretary of Transportation.

(viii) The Secretary of Education.

(ix) The Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources.

(x) The Adjutant General.

(xi) The Chair of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

(xii) The Director of Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

(xiii) The Commissioner of Pennsylvania State Police.

((4) amended July 2, 2019, P.L.347, No.49)

Section 5. Term.

A member shall be appointed for the duration of the commission. A vacancy on the commission shall not affect the powers of the commission and shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

Section 6. Meetings.

Meetings of the commission shall be held throughout this Commonwealth at times and locations determined by the chairperson. A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

Section 7. General powers and duties.

The commission shall:

(1) Plan, coordinate and implement an overall program commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States in the year 2026, specifically highlighting the role of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvanians in and the events succeeding the historic event.

(2) Plan, coordinate and implement the Pennsylvania pavilion.

(3) Coordinate with all Federal, State and local agencies on infrastructural improvements and projects to welcome regional, national and international tourists.

Section 8. Requirements for plans and programs.

In preparing plans and an overall program, the commission:

(1) Shall give due consideration to related plans and programs developed by Federal, other states, local and private groups.

(2) May designate special committees with representatives from groups described in paragraph (1) to plan, develop and coordinate specific activities.

(3) Shall, beginning within 90 days of its first meeting and throughout the duration of the commission, conduct extensive public engagement throughout this Commonwealth in developing the overall programs that may take place during the semiquincentennial.

(4) Shall aim to impact and showcase all counties in this Commonwealth.

(5) Shall draw attention to the achievements, struggles, honors, innovations and impacts of all people in Pennsylvania since before its founding to the present day.

(6) Shall clearly delineate the costs associated with the commission.

Section 9. Report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

(a) Duty to submit.--Not later than three years after the effective date of this section, the commission shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a comprehensive report that includes the specific recommendations of the commission for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and related events. ((a) amended July 2, 2019, P.L.347, No.49)

(b) Required contents.--The report shall include the following:

(1) A detailed timeline of the plan of works through 2027.

(2) Recommendations of the commission for the allocation of financial and administrative responsibility among the public and private authorities and organizations recommended for participation by the commission.

(3) The projected number of jobs created through the implementation of the commission's plan and overall program.

(4) The projected economic impact of the implementation of the commission's plan and overall program.

(5) The geographic impact on all counties of this Commonwealth of the commission's plan and overall program.

(6) The plan for the Pennsylvania pavilion.

(7) The plan for improvements, if any, to the infrastructure of the Commonwealth necessary for the successful delivery of the commission's plan and overall program.

(8) Outputs and outcomes against which progress and success of the commission's plan and overall program can be measured.

(c) Recommendations for legislation.--The report may include recommendations for legislation needed to effectuate the plan and overall program.

(d) Publication.--The report shall be available on the commission's publicly accessible Internet website.

Section 10. Information from State agencies.

The commission may secure directly from a State agency information as the commission considers necessary to carry out this act. On the request of the chairperson of the commission, the head of a State agency shall provide the information to the commission.

Section 11. Gifts.

The commission may accept, use and dispose of gifts and donations of money, property or personal services. Information relating to the gifts shall be enumerated and submitted to the State Ethics Commission each quarter and shall be available on the commission's publicly accessible Internet website.

Section 12. Additional powers.

As determined necessary by the commission, the commission may:

(1) Procure supplies, services and property.

(2) Make contracts.

(3) Expend, in furtherance of this act, funds donated or received in pursuance of contracts entered into under this act.

(4) Take actions as are necessary to enable the commission to carry out efficiently and in the public interest the purpose of this act.

Section 13. Property.

Property acquired by the commission that remains after the termination of the commission may be designated by an act of the General Assembly to local municipalities or State agencies.

Section 14. Administration.

(a) Compensation of members.--

(1) The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for service on the commission.

(2) The members of the commission shall receive reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses.

(b) Staff.--

(1) The chairperson of the commission may, without regard to the civil service laws or regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director and other additional personnel as are necessary to enable the commission to perform its powers and duties.

(2) The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by majority vote of the commission.

(3) An individual appointed or employed under this act is not eligible to participate in the State Employees' Retirement System solely due to the individual's appointment or employment by the commission.

Section 15. Annual report.

Once each year during the period beginning on the effective date of this section through December 31, 2027, the commission shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report of the activities of the commission, including an accounting of funds received and expended during the year covered by the report, the outputs and outcomes achieved and whether those achievements meet the commission's plan and overall program. The report shall be available on the commission's publicly accessible Internet website.

Section 16. Termination of commission.

The commission shall terminate on December 31, 2027.

Section 17. Effective date.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

**South Carolina General Assembly**  
123rd Session, 2019-2020

**A101, R7, S80**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION TO AMEND SECTIONS 1 AND 3 OF ACT 289 OF 2018, RELATING TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA AMERICAN REVOLUTION SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMISSION, SO AS TO PROVIDE THE OBSERVANCE MUST INCLUDE THE ROLE OF PERSONS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN DESCENT IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND TO MAKE SIMILAR CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION, RESPECTIVELY.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

**Creation and purpose**

SECTION 1. SECTION 1 of Act 289 of 2018 is amended to read:

“SECTION 1. There is hereby created a South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission, which shall have the authority and responsibility to plan and execute, insofar as authorized and funded by the General Assembly, a proper observance of the Sestercentennial of the American Revolution in South Carolina, and in cooperation with the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust; a national organization, if any; and other similar commemorative organizations in other states. This proper observance of the Sestercentennial must include the role of persons of African-American descent in the Revolutionary War.”

**Membership revised**

SECTION 2. SECTION 3 of Act 289 of 2018 is amended to read:

“SECTION 3. (A) Membership of the South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission shall consist of fifteen persons as follows:

- (a) the Governor, ex officio, or his designee;
- (b) the Chairman of the Archives and History Commission, ex officio;

(c) the Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, ex officio;

(d) four members to be appointed by the President of the Senate, at least one of whom must be of African-American descent;

(e) four members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, at least one of whom must be of African-American descent; and

(f) four members to be appointed by the Governor, at least one of whom must be of African-American descent, who shall serve initial terms of one, two, and three years, respectively, and whose successors shall serve for terms of four years.

(B) Any member who was appointed by the Lieutenant Governor shall be deemed to have been appointed by the President of the Senate and may continue to serve on the commission.”

**Time effective**

SECTION 3. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.

Approved the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.

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# *State of Tennessee*

## **PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 384**

**SENATE BILL NO. 679**

**By Gardenhire, Crowe**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1091

By Boyd, Smith, Hardaway, Doggett

AN ACT to enact the "Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act."

SECTION 2. As used in this act, "Commission" means the Tennessee commission for the United States semiquincentennial commission.

SECTION 3. The commission is established to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, and recognize Tennessee's integral role in that event and the impact of its people on the nation's past, present, and future.

SECTION 4. The commission consists of thirteen (13) ex officio voting members as follows:

- (1) The commissioner of tourist development;
- (2) The state historian;
- (3) The executive director of the Tennessee historical society;
- (4) The executive director of the Tennessee historical commission;
- (5) The state librarian and archivist;
- (6) The president of the Tennessee Sons of the American Revolution;
- (7) The state regent of the Tennessee Society, Daughters of the American Revolution;
- (8) Two (2) members of the house of representatives, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- (9) Two (2) members of the senate, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate;
- (10) The museum executive director of the state museum; and
- (11) The executive director of the East Tennessee historical society.

SECTION 5. Members are appointed for the duration of the commission, but serve only so long as they remain in their official position as described in Section 4. A vacancy on the commission does not affect the powers of the commission and is filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

SECTION 6. Meetings of the commission are held throughout the state at times and locations to be determined by the chair, who is selected by a majority vote of the commission and

may serve up to two (2) consecutive two-year terms. The first meeting of the commission is to be called by the commissioner of tourist development. A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum.

SECTION 7. The commission shall:

(1) Plan, coordinate, and implement a program to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States in the year 2026, specifically highlighting the role of Tennessee and Tennesseans in, and the events succeeding, the historic event; and

(2) Coordinate with federal, state, and local agencies on infrastructural improvements and projects to welcome regional, national, and international tourists.

SECTION 8. In developing the plan and overall program for the event, the commission:

(1) Shall give due consideration to related plans and programs developed by federal, state, local, and private groups;

(2) May designate special committees with representatives from groups described in subdivision (1) to plan, develop, and coordinate specific activities;

(3) Shall hold public meetings to solicit the input of citizens throughout the state in developing programs for the semiquincentennial. The meetings shall be held within ninety (90) days of the commission's first meeting and throughout the commission's existence;

(4) Shall showcase all counties in this state;

(5) Shall draw attention to the achievements, struggles, honors, innovations, and impacts of all people in this state; and

(6) Shall clearly delineate all expenses incurred by the commission in developing the program.

SECTION 9.

(a) No later than one (1) year after the effective date of this act, the commission shall submit a comprehensive report to the governor, the speaker of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives that contains the commission's specific recommendations for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and related events.

(b) The report must include:

(1) A detailed timeline of the commission's plan for the event through 2027;

(2) The commission's recommendations for the allocation of costs among public and private entities that provide financial and administrative assistance to the commission;

(3) The projected number of jobs created through the implementation of the commission's plan and overall program;

(4) The projected economic impact of the implementation of the commission's plan and overall program;

(5) The geographic impact of the commission's plan and overall program on all counties of this state;

(6) A plan for improvements, if any, to the infrastructure of the state necessary to ensure the success of the commission's plan and overall program; and

(7) Outputs and outcomes against which progress and success of the commission's plan and overall program can be measured.

(c) The report may include recommendations for legislation necessary to effectuate the plan and overall program.

(d) The commission shall make the report available to the public on the commission's internet website.

SECTION 10. The commission is administratively attached to the department of tourist development. All appropriate agencies of state government shall provide assistance to the commission upon request of the commission.

SECTION 11. The commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts and donations of money, property, or personal services. Information relating to the gifts must be enumerated and submitted to the Tennessee ethics commission each quarter and must be made available to the public on the commission's internet website.

SECTION 12. (a) The commission may:

- (1) Procure supplies, services, and property;
- (2) Enter into contracts;
- (3) Expend, in furtherance of this act, funds donated or received in pursuance of contracts entered into under this act; and
- (4) Take action as necessary to enable the commission to effectuate the purposes of this act.

(b) Any action taken pursuant to subsection (a) must first be approved by majority vote of the commission.

SECTION 13. Property acquired by the commission that remains after the termination of the commission may be designated by an act of the general assembly for donation to local municipalities or state agencies.

SECTION 14. (a) Commission members will receive no compensation for their work with the commission but may receive reimbursement for travel expenses incurred in attending meetings of the commission in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations, as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(b)(1) The chair of the commission may appoint an executive director and other personnel necessary for the commission to perform its powers and duties, subject to the approval of a majority vote of the entire membership of the commission.

(2) No person appointed or employed under this act is eligible to participate in the state retirement system solely on the basis of such appointment to or employment with the commission.

SECTION 15. The commission shall submit an annual report to the governor and the general assembly detailing the commission's activities on or before December 31 of each year. The report must include an accounting of funds received and expended during the year covered by the report, the outputs and outcomes achieved, and whether those achievements meet the commission's plan and overall program goals. The commission shall make the report available to the public on the commission's website.

SECTION 16. This act shall be repealed and the commission shall cease to exist on December 31, 2027.

SECTION 17. For the purpose of appointing members to the commission, this act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 679

PASSED: May 1, 2019

  
RANDY McNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
GLEN CASADA, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 2019

  
BILL LEE, GOVERNOR

## **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 06-20**

(Creation of the Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission)

**WHEREAS**, the year 2026 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the formation of the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, for the duration of the American Revolutionary War, between 1775 and 1783, Vermonters played a significant role in the Colonists' assertion for independence from Great Britain; and

**WHEREAS**, the successful assault by Vermont's Green Mountain Boys, under Ethan Allen at Fort Ticonderoga in May 1775, has been called the first offensive action by American forces during the Revolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Battle of Valcour Island, considered the first naval battle of the Revolutionary War, was fought in October 1776 on Lake Champlain with Benedict Arnold commanding the American forces; and

**WHEREAS**, the extensive fortification of Mount Independence in Orwell was one of the largest American-built garrisons of the Revolutionary War, constructed in 1776-1777 to defend New England from the British; and

**WHEREAS**, the Battle of Hubbardton, fought on July 7, 1777, was the only Revolutionary War battle fought entirely on the soil of what would become the State of Vermont; although a British tactical victory, it was one of the most successful rear-guard actions in American history; and

**WHEREAS**, in August 1777, at the Battle of Bennington, Vermont troops helped defeat a British force, setting up victories at the Battles of Saratoga that are considered together to be a turning point of the war in favor of the Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, some historic places in Vermont related to our nation's fight for independence are designated as State-owned Historic Sites, including Hubbardton Battlefield, Mount Independence, and Bennington Battle Monument; and

**WHEREAS**, Vermonters and Vermont's communities, cultural institutions, historical societies, and state and local governments are proud partners in the remembrance of the events of the American Revolutionary War and those who fought so bravely for our country's independence; and

**WHEREAS**, to observe this momentous anniversary, the U.S. Congress established the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to encourage Americans to remember our past, celebrate the present, and look forward to a promising future.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, I, Philip B. Scott, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor, do hereby order as follows:

1. The Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission is hereby established to plan, encourage, develop, coordinate, and promote observances and activities to be held in Vermont in commemoration of the historic events that preceded and are associated with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution in the State of Vermont, in celebration of our present and in anticipation of the promising future of our State.
2. The Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission shall be comprised of not more than 14 members to include the Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing; the State Historic Preservation Officer; the State Librarian; a representative of the Vermont Historical Society to be selected by their Board of Directors; a representative from the University of Vermont appointed by the UVM President; and nine members shall be appointed by the Governor representative of the geographic and racial diversity of the State, to include a Revolutionary War historian; a member of a Revolutionary War reenactment group; a representative of the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs; and a representative of a Vermont history museum. The State Historic Preservation Officer shall serve as the Chair.

The Chair shall call the first meeting of the Commission to occur on or before March 1, 2021. The Commission shall meet at least quarterly.

3. The Commission shall coordinate, review, and promote programs and activities throughout the state relating to the American Revolutionary War, in particular Vermont's involvement therein, to deepen the knowledge and understanding of this formative period of American history and how it has shaped and continues to shape who we are as a people, a state and a nation.
4. The Commission may choose to designate one or more nonprofit entities for the purposes of soliciting and accepting private donations and public funds, grants, and donations in order to carry out the purposes of this Commission. Donated funds designated for this purpose shall only be disbursed upon recommendation by a majority of the Commission and finally approved by the Chair.
5. The Commission shall have the administrative, technical and legal support of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and assistance, as needed, of other State agencies and departments, boards, and commissions.

6. To the extent funding is available, each member of the Commission shall be entitled to per diem compensation pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

This Executive Order shall take effect upon execution and expire on December 31, 2027 unless extended by the Governor.



WITNESS my name hereunto subscribed and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont hereunto affixed at Montpelier this 15th day of December, 2020.

A blue ink signature of Philip B. Scott, written in a cursive style, is positioned above a horizontal line. Below the line, the name "Philip B. Scott" and the title "Governor" are printed.

Philip B. Scott  
Governor

By the Governor:

A black ink signature of Brittney L. Wilson, written in a cursive style, is positioned above a horizontal line.

Brittney L. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs

Executive Order No. 06-20

Dated: December 15, 2020

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 25 of Title 2.2 an article numbered 11,  
3 consisting of sections numbered 2.2-2544 through 2.2-2550, relating to the American Revolution 250  
4 Commission; report.

5 [H 1424]  
6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**  
8 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 25 of Title 2.2 an article numbered**  
9 **11, consisting of sections numbered 2.2-2544 through 2.2-2550, as follows:**

10 *Article 11.*  
11 *American Revolution 250 Commission.*

12 **§ 2.2-2544. American Revolution 250 Commission; purpose.**  
13 *The American Revolution 250 Commission (the Commission) is established as an advisory*  
14 *commission within the executive branch of state government.*

15 *The purpose of the Commission is to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American*  
16 *Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the independence of the United States.*

17 **§ 2.2-2545. Membership; terms; quorum; meetings.**

18 *A. The Commission shall have a total membership of 22 members that shall consist of 17*  
19 *nonlegislative citizen members and five ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows:*

20 *1. One representative from each of the lead commemoration partners: the Jamestown-Yorktown*  
21 *Foundation, the primary state agency and fiscal agent; the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, the*  
22 *primary nonstate agency; and Gunston Hall, the primary representative of Virginia's historic homes and*  
23 *related sites;*

24 *2. One representative from the American Battlefield Trust, the secretariat of the United States*  
25 *Semiquincentennial Commission, and one representative from the Virginia Bar Association;*

26 *5. Six members appointed by the Governor from a list of 10 provided by the Jamestown-Yorktown*  
27 *Foundation; and*

28 *6. Six members appointed by the Governor from a list of 10 provided by the Virginia Museum of*  
29 *History & Culture.*

30 *The Secretary of Education, the Librarian of Virginia, the Director of the Department of Historic*  
31 *Resources, the Executive Director of Virginia Humanities, and the Chief Executive Officer of the*  
32 *Virginia Tourism Authority, or their designees, shall serve as ex officio members with voting privileges.*  
33 *Nonlegislative citizen members of the Commission shall be citizens of the Commonwealth.*

34 *B. The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from among its membership.*

35 *C. Nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for the duration of the Commission's activities.*  
36 *Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired terms. Vacancies shall be filled in the same*  
37 *manner as the original appointments.*

38 **§ 2.2-2546. Quorum; meetings.**

39 *A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The meetings of the Commission will be held*  
40 *at the call of the chair or whenever a majority of the members so request.*

41 **§ 2.2-2547. Compensation; expenses.**

42 *Nonlegislative citizen members of the Commission shall not receive compensation or reimbursement*  
43 *for travel and other expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.*

44 **§ 2.2-2548. Powers and duties of the Commission.**

45 *The Commission shall have the power and duty to:*

46 *1. Formulate and implement a program for the inclusive observance of the 250th anniversary of the*  
47 *independence of the United States and the Revolutionary War in Virginia, including (i) civic, cultural,*  
48 *and historical education and scholarship concerning the ideals of the American Revolution and their*  
49 *contemporary relevance; (ii) visitation of museums and historic sites, including battlefields; (iii) creation*  
50 *and publication of historical documents and studies; (iv) cooperation with agencies responsible for the*  
51 *preservation or restoration of historic sites, buildings, art, and artifacts; (v) establishment of exhibitions*  
52 *and interpretive and wayfinding signage; (vi) arrangement of appropriate public ceremonies; (vii) a*  
53 *comprehensive marketing and tourism campaign encompassing calendar year 2025 through calendar*  
54 *year 2026; and (viii) the general dissemination of public information regarding Virginia's involvement in*  
55 *the American Revolution and its legacy today;*

56 *2. Submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim*

57 activity and work of the Commission no later than the first day of each regular session of the General  
58 Assembly;

59 3. Solicit, accept, use, and dispose of funds appropriated by the General Assembly and any gifts,  
60 grants, donations, bequests, or other funds received by the Commission for the purpose of aiding or  
61 facilitating its work;

62 4. Appoint and establish an advisory council, to be led by the Commission member representing  
63 Gunston Hall, composed of nonlegislative citizen members at large who have a knowledge of relevant  
64 history or expertise in areas useful to the work of the Commission, including a representative of the  
65 Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, a representative of the Virginia Daughters of  
66 the American Revolution, and a representative of the National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary  
67 Route Association. The advisory council shall make recommendations and provide comment as requested  
68 by the Commission. The Commission may from time to time appoint, add, or remove members of the  
69 advisory council. Members of the advisory council shall serve without compensation or reimbursement;

70 5. Appoint and establish an executive committee composed of members of the Commission, to include  
71 the Commission's chair and vice-chair and one representative designated by each of the following: the  
72 Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, and Gunston Hall; and

73 6. Perform such other duties, functions, and activities as may be necessary to facilitate and  
74 implement the objectives of the Commission.

75 **§ 2.2-2549. Cooperation of agencies of state and local government.**

76 The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation will be the primary state agency and fiscal agent for the  
77 commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. All agencies of the Commonwealth  
78 and local governments are authorized, consistent with their missions, to provide assistance and advice to  
79 the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, or directly to the Commission, in fulfilling all things necessary  
80 and proper to plan for and implement the commemoration. The various agencies and institutions of the  
81 Commonwealth, upon request of the Commission and approval of the respective agency head, shall  
82 designate a liaison to coordinate assistance and services to the Commission from their agencies and  
83 institutions.

84 **§ 2.2-2550. Sunset.**

85 *This article shall expire on July 1, 2027.*

86 **2. That during the first year of its existence the American Revolution 250 Commission (the**  
87 **Commission) created pursuant to this act shall be limited to two meetings, which shall be**  
88 **convened by the Secretary of Education, for the purpose of developing a work plan for the**  
89 **Commission. Such work plan shall include information related to staffing and proposed internal**  
90 **organizational structure and funding needs. The Secretary shall submit a report on his findings**  
91 **regarding the work plan, including any recommendations, to the Governor and the General**  
92 **Assembly by November 30, 2020.**

93 **3. That the membership of the American Revolution 250 Commission created pursuant to this act**  
94 **shall be increased by the addition of legislative members in such number and of such composition**  
95 **as determined by a bill passed by the 2021 Regular Session of the General Assembly that becomes**  
96 **law.**