



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1793

PRINTERS NO. 2594

PRIME SPONSOR: Charlton

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19
Commonwealth Funds	See "Fiscal Impact"	See "Fiscal Impact"
Local Funds	See "Fiscal Impact"	See "Fiscal Impact"

**SUMMARY:** Creates the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

**ANALYSIS:** This legislation creates an independent commission to plan and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026, and to highlight Pennsylvania's role in the nation's founding.

**Composition of the Commission:** The PA Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial consists of voting and ex officio members. The 24 voting members are as follows:

- Two members of the Senate, one appointed by the majority leader and one by the minority leader.
- Two members of the House, one appointed by the Speaker and one by the minority leader.
- Twenty private citizens, four each appointed by the Governor and each legislative caucus.

The Governor will designate one of the commission members to serve as chairperson.

There are 11 ex officio, non-voting members:

- Secretary of Community and Economic Development
- Secretary of the Commonwealth
- Attorney General
- Auditor General
- State Treasurer
- Chair of the PA Historical and Museum Commission
- Secretary of Transportation
- Secretary of Education
- Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Adjutant General
- Chair of the PA Council on the Arts

All members serve for the duration of the commission. Vacancies will be filled by the original appointing authority. Meetings will be held at the discretion of the chairperson. A majority constitutes a quorum.

**Powers and Duties of the Commission:** The commission is required to plan, coordinate and implement a program to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the US in 2026, including the state's pavilion at the event location. It will coordinate tourist projects and infrastructure improvements with all Federal, State and local agencies.

The commission's plans and programs are subject to several requirements. The commission shall:

- Give "due consideration" to other related plans and programs.
- Within 90 days of its first meeting, "engage" with the public throughout the state to develop overall programming.
- Try to showcase all counties.
- Draw attention to the achievements and struggles of all Pennsylvanians throughout the state's history.
- Delineate the commission's costs.

The commission may also designate special committees to plan, develop and coordinate specific activities.

**Initial Report:** The commission must submit a comprehensive report, with recommendations (including any legislation), to the Governor and the General Assembly within a year. The report, which must be made available to the public on the Internet, must include:

- A detailed timeline
- Recommendations for financial and administrative responsibilities of participating agencies and private organizations.
- Projected number of jobs to be created and the economic and geographic impact.
- The plans for the PA pavilion and any necessary infrastructure improvements.
- Outputs and outcomes to measure success of the plan.

**Administration of the Act:** Members of the commission will receive no compensation other than reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses. The chairperson may appoint staff, without regard to the civil service laws, including an executive director who must be confirmed by a majority vote of the commission. Persons who are appointed or employed by the commission are not eligible for the state pension system solely due to their involvement with the commission.

**Annual Report:** The commission must submit a report of its activities to the Governor and the General Assembly every year until December 31, 2027. The report must include an accounting of funds received and expended as well as the progress of the commission's plan and overall program. The report must be posted on the commission's public Internet site.

**Other Provisions:** The legislation also provides that:

- State agencies must provide the commission with any necessary information requested by the chairperson.
- The commission can accept and use gifts and donations of money, property and services. Gift information must be submitted to the State Ethics Commission quarterly and will be made public.
- The commission has the power to procure supplies, services and property; make contracts; expend funds; and take actions necessary to carry out the purpose of the act. Any commission property remaining after the commission's termination may be distributed to municipalities and state agencies by an act of law.

**Sunset:** The commission shall terminate on December 31, 2027.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The costs of this newly formed Commission are indeterminable at this point but would likely ramp up in the years leading up to 2026. Costs could include staff, including an executive director to the Commission, as well as travel costs across multiple agencies. DCED indicates that they anticipate travel and miscellaneous expenses to be roughly \$2,500 annually in the years leading up to the Semiquincentennial.

It is very likely that financial gifts would be available to offset some of these costs to the Commonwealth. It is also likely that the economic impact from the events occurring during the Semiquincentennial would result in additional state and local tax revenues.

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**DATE:** November 16, 2017

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*