

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 1793

PRINTER NO. 2594

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

September 18, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Charlton

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 1793 creates the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (commission). The independent commission's task is to plan and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026.

The commission will be made up of 24 voting members:

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

The commission will also be made up of 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

The Governor shall appoint a chair. All members serve for the duration of the commission, and vacancies will be filled by the original appointing authority.

The duties of the commission include planning and coordinating the program to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States and are subject to the following requirements:

- Give due consideration to other related plans and programs.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

- Engage with the public throughout the state to develop the overall program.
- Attempt to showcase every county.
- Highlight the achievements and struggles of all Pennsylvanians throughout history.
- Delineate the commission's costs.

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

A comprehensive report is required to be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly within one year. The report must include:

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

Members of the commission will not receive compensation other than reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses. The chairperson may hire staff, and such staff are not eligible for the state pension system solely due to their involvement with the commission.

An annual report must be provided to the Governor and the General Assembly yearly until December 31, 2027. The report must include accounting of funds received, and expended as well as the progress of commission's plan and overall program.

The commission can accept gifts and donations of money, property and services. It may also procure supplies, services and property, make contracts and extend funds to carry out the purpose of commission.

The commission shall terminate on December 31, 2027.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to Commonwealth funds projected for Fiscal Year 2018-19. The costs will begin to increase as the commission ramps up preparations leading up to the 2026 events. It is anticipated that costs will include staff, supplies, services, property, and travel expenses. The Department of Community and Economic Development estimates travel expenses to be \$2,500 annually. It can be estimated that 7 staff members to staff the commission (salary and benefits) will cost approximately \$700,000 per year. It should also be anticipated that financial and in-kind gifts for services will be rendered to offset some of the costs to the Commonwealth.