

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1793 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY CHARLTON, SOLOMON, MILLARD, LONGIETTI, BOBACK, RYAN, BRIGGS, WARD, MURT, RABB, V. BROWN, SAMUELSON, STURLA, HAHN, DIAMOND, HELM, MATZIE, COOK, PHILLIPS-HILL, SCHLOSSBERG, C. QUINN, DELOZIER, READSHAW, NEILSON, D. COSTA, DRISCOLL, DONATUCCI, D. MILLER, WARREN, ROEBUCK, CORR, WATSON, DEASY, CALTAGIRONE, KIRKLAND, BRADFORD, RADER, BURNS, SANTORA AND SIMS, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 17, 2017

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES <--  
2 Semiquincentennial ~~Commission~~; and providing for its powers <--  
3 and duties.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania  
8 COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES Semiquincentennial ~~Commission~~ <--  
9 Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

14 "Commission." The Pennsylvania COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED <--  
15 STATES Semiquincentennial ~~Commission~~ established by this act. <--

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

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

6 Section 3. Establishment.

7 The Pennsylvania COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES <--  
8 Semiquincentennial ~~Commission~~ is established to plan, encourage, <--  
9 develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th  
10 anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania's  
11 integral role in that event and the impact of its people on the  
12 nation's past, present and future.

13 Section 4. Composition.

14 The commission shall consist of the following members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (i) Four shall be appointed by the Governor.

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

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

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

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

7 (vi) One of whom shall be designated by the Governor  
8 as the Chairperson of the Pennsylvania COMMISSION FOR THE <--  
9 UNITED STATES Semiquincentennial ~~Commission~~. <--

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

12 (i) The secretary.

13 (ii) The Secretary of the Commonwealth.

14 (iii) The Attorney General.

15 (iv) The Auditor General.

16 (V) THE STATE TREASURER. <--

17 ~~(v)~~ (VI) The Chair of the Pennsylvania Historical <--  
18 and Museum Commission.

19 ~~(vi)~~ (VII) The Secretary of Transportation. <--

20 ~~(vii)~~ (VIII) The Secretary of Education. <--

21 ~~(viii)~~ (IX) The Secretary of Conservation and <--  
22 Natural Resources.

23 ~~(ix)~~ (X) The Adjutant General. <--

24 ~~(x)~~ (XI) The Chair of the Pennsylvania Council on <--  
25 the Arts.

26 Section 5. Term.

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

1 Section 6. Meetings.

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

7 Section 7. General powers and duties.

8 The commission shall:

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

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

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

19 Section 8. Requirements for plans and programs.

20 In preparing plans and an overall program, the commission:

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

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

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

1 the Semiquincentennial.

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

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

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

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

10 (a) Duty to submit.--Not later than one year after the  
11 effective date of this section, the commission shall submit to  
12 the Governor and the General Assembly a comprehensive report  
13 that includes the specific recommendations of the commission for  
14 the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of  
15 the United States and related events.

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

18 (1) A detailed timeline of the plan of works through  
19 2027.

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

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

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

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

30 (6) The plan for the Pennsylvania pavilion.

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

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

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

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

13 Section 10. Information from State agencies.

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

19 Section 11. Gifts.

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

25 Section 12. Additional powers.

26 As determined necessary by the commission, the commission  
27 may:

28 (1) Procure supplies, services and property.

29 (2) Make contracts.

30 (3) Expend, in furtherance of this act, funds donated or

1 received in pursuance of contracts entered into under this  
2 act.

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

6 Section 13. Property.

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

10 Section 14. Administration.

11 (a) Compensation of members.--

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

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

16 (b) Staff.--

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

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

24 (3) AN INDIVIDUAL APPOINTED OR EMPLOYED UNDER THIS ACT <--  
25 IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE EMPLOYEES'  
26 RETIREMENT SYSTEM SOLELY DUE TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S APPOINTMENT  
27 OR EMPLOYMENT BY THE COMMISSION.

28 Section 15. Annual report.

29 Once each year during the period beginning on the effective  
30 date of this section through December 31, 2027, the commission

1 shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report  
2 of the activities of the commission, including an accounting of  
3 funds received and expended during the year covered by the  
4 report, the outputs and outcomes achieved and whether those  
5 achievements meet the commission's plan and overall program. The  
6 report shall be available on the commission's publicly  
7 accessible Internet website.

8 Section 16. Termination of commission.

9 The commission shall terminate on December 31, 2027.

10 Section 17. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect in 60 days.