

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

Relating to the America 250 Missouri Commission

1 Whereas, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of
2 Independence and 250th anniversary of the United States of
3 America are approaching in the coming years; and

4 Whereas, such anniversaries are worthy of celebration
5 at both the federal and state levels; and

6 Whereas, in order to effect such a celebration in
7 Missouri, there needs to be a coordinated effort at the
8 state level:

9 Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the members of the
10 Missouri Senate, One Hundred First General Assembly, Second
11 Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring
12 therein, hereby create the America 250 Missouri Commission;
13 and

14 Be it Further Resolved that the principal purpose of
15 the Commission shall be to plan, promote, and implement
16 where appropriate public celebrations and commemorations of
17 the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on
18 July 4, 2026, and the 250th anniversary of the United States
19 of America; and

20 Be it Further Resolved that the Commission is
21 authorized to cooperate with the United States
22 Semiquincentennial Commission created by Public Law 114-196,
23 other national and state organizations engaged in
24 commemoration and celebration of the United States
25 Semiquincentennial, and other national, regional, state, and
26 local public and private organizations having compatible
27 purposes. It shall encourage various state agencies and
28 organizations to work cooperatively to promote the
29 Semiquincentennial; and

30 Be it Further Resolved that the Commission shall
31 consider promoting and encouraging as part of its
32 celebratory and commemorative events, electronic media,
33 printed products, symposia, and educational outreach all of
34 the following:

35 (1) Awareness and understanding of the principles of
36 the Declaration of Independence, of the winning of American
37 independence in the American Revolutionary War, and of the
38 establishment of America's system of constitutional self-
39 government;

40 (2) Teaching students and increasing public knowledge
41 and appreciation of the breadth of American history and the
42 centuries-long quest for "liberty and justice for all".
43 This includes sharing the stories and contributions of the
44 various people who have populated the land, from indigenous
45 peoples, explorers, British colonists, seekers of religious
46 freedom, enslaved African Americans, and many others who are
47 part of America's stories. This should also include the
48 commemoration of events that occurred in Missouri during the
49 American Revolutionary War period, such as the Battle of
50 Fort San Carlos in what is now the city of St. Louis in 1780;

51 (3) Advancing the cause of liberty and American self-
52 government and of the meaning of "E Pluribus Unum" ("From
53 many, one"), through promoting civic knowledge and practice,
54 including America's "Charters of Freedom" (the Declaration
55 of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights),
56 and the constitutional features of self-government which
57 emphasize the roles of active and engaged good citizens;

58 (4) Emphasizing the service and sacrifices of veterans
59 of all generations who have secured and preserved American
60 independence and freedom and encouraging Missourians to
61 honor them;

62 (5) Celebratory and commemorative events and
63 activities throughout the State of Missouri; and

64 Be it Further Resolved that the membership of the
65 Commission shall consist of thirteen voting members as
66 follows:

67 (1) The Governor of Missouri who shall serve as chair
68 of the commission;

69 (2) Two members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

70 (3) Two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore
71 of the Senate and two members appointed by the Speaker of
72 the House of Representatives;

73 (4) Two members who are Missourians serving on the
74 United States Semiquincentennial Commission as certified by
75 the executive officer of that Commission;

76 (5) One member who is a representative of the Missouri
77 Society of the Sons of the American Revolution appointed by
78 the Governor;

79 (6) One member who is a representative of the Missouri
80 State Society Daughters of the American Revolution appointed
81 by the Governor;

82 (7) Two citizens at large, appointed by the Governor;
83 and

84 Be it Further Resolved that members shall serve for the
85 life of the Commission, provided any public official's
86 expiration of his or her term shall create a vacancy, and
87 all vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as
88 originally appointed; and

89 Be it Further Resolved that the appointing authorities
90 shall coordinate their appointments so that diversity of
91 gender, race, and geographical areas is reflective of the
92 makeup of this state; and

93 Be it Further Resolved that the Commission shall elect
94 its chair, vice chair and any other officers it deems

95 necessary. A majority of the members shall constitute a
96 quorum to conduct business; and

97 Be it Further Resolved that the Office of
98 Administration shall provide administrative support for the
99 Commission; and

100 Be it Further Resolved that the Commission, its
101 members, and any staff assigned to the Commission shall
102 receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary
103 expenses in attending meetings of the Commission, with such
104 reimbursement for the legislative members only coming from
105 the Joint Contingent Fund; and

106 Be it Further Resolved that the Commission shall
107 terminate by either a majority of the members voting for
108 termination, or by December 31, 2027, whichever occurs
109 first; and

110 Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Senate
111 be instructed to send a properly inscribed copy of this
112 resolution to the Governor for his approval or rejection
113 pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

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