

## Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5374  
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO COMMEMORATE THE UNITED  
**Title:** STATES OF AMERICA SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL.  
**Vote Date:** 3/22/2022  
**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute  
**PH Date:** 3/15/2022  
**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

### **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Rep. Craig C. Fishbein, 90<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
Rep. Mark W. Anderson, 62<sup>nd</sup> Dist.

### **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The Bill establishes a commission to commemorate the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the American Revolution. The 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary is on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and as such, many states are already starting to begin efforts towards the celebration. For example, the legislation of this Bill is modeled from Rhode Island's Commission legislation. Because Connecticut is a state with deep colonial roots and heavy involvement during the Revolutionary War, it is imperative that the state participates in the commemoration of the founding of the U.S. This Bill would establish a commission that would find the best way to celebrate this founding while also engaging the citizens through shared State history.

### **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**David Lehman, Commissioner and Governor's Senior Economic Advisor, Department of Economic and Community Development.**

Commissioner Lehman voiced support for Committee Bill No. 5374, as it establishes a commission whose purpose will be to organize the state's effort to celebrate the United States of Americas 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Commissioner notes the commitment of neighboring States, and suggests that Connecticut must be at the forefront of the anniversary celebration as it is a state with deep colonial and revolutionary roots.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Jason Mancini, Executive Director, Connecticut Humanities Council**

Mr. Mancini voiced support for Committee Bill No. 5374 as it creates a commission to commemorate the United States of America's semiquincentennial. Mr. Mancini notes that the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary is drawing closer, and that CT and its people played a key part in not just forming the nation during the revolution, but also in contributing to key elements of the governing foundation of the U.S. Therefore, the commission can convene organizations and partners to uplift the peoples and places across CT, so as to contribute to the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **Denise Merrill, Secretary of the State of Connecticut**

Secretary Merrill voiced support for Committee Bill No. 5374, as it would create a commission to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution, noting that it is the states' responsibility as stewards of American Democracy to constantly examine and commemorate the states history, both the good and bad. It is Secretary Merrill's belief that the commission, with its mission to focus on how CT history affected all of its residents, is an important step in bolstering the civic engagement of today's CT residents.

### **Deborah Schander, State Librarian, Connecticut State Library**

Ms. Schander voiced support for Committee Bill No. 5374 as it creates a commission to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution and Connecticut's contribution to the founding of the government. Ms. Schander notes that remembering State history, as well as the contributions and sacrifices of its citizens, is critical to understanding who we are as individuals, as communities, and as a society. Ms. Schander states that the Bill charges the commission to tell the stories and contributions of Connecticut communities affected by the revolution, and further states that many such projects are already underway thanks to State Library staff. Such projects include the Washington-Rochambeau revolutionary route project, the Redding Encampment project, and a plan to digitalize and transcribe the papers of John Trumbull.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

### **David Godbout**

Mr. Godbout voiced opposition to Committee Bill 5374, as he believes that all Bills made during the 2022 session are illegitimate, due to committees meeting via electronic means as opposed to in-person. supposedly violating the fourth amendment rights of CT citizens.

**Reported by: Ben McSheehy**

**Date: [Type Date]**