



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5374

LCO No. 2228



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:
(CE)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO COMMEMORATE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established the
2 Connecticut Semiquincentennial Commission to commemorate the two
3 hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the American Revolution. The
4 purpose of the commission shall be to: (1) Assist in ensuring that any
5 observance of the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution is
6 inclusive and appropriately recognizes the experiences and points of
7 view of all people affected by the events surrounding the American
8 Revolution; (2) encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, arts
9 and other organizations throughout the state to organize and participate
10 in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the
11 significance of the American Revolution; (3) collaborate with state and
12 local tourism agencies to promote the state as a prominent cultural and
13 heritage tourism destination for American Revolution history; (4)
14 encourage interdisciplinary and scholarly examination of the American
15 Revolution; and (5) explore the ways in which the ethos of the United
16 States' national founding period and the two hundred and fifty years

17 that follow influence the United States' present and can shape its future.

18 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

19 (1) A representative of Connecticut Humanities, or such
20 representative's designee, who shall be appointed by the speaker of the
21 House of Representatives;

22 (2) A representative of the Connecticut Democracy Center, who shall
23 be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

24 (3) A representative of the Mohegan Tribe, who shall be appointed by
25 the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

26 (4) A representative of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, who
27 shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

28 (5) A representative of the Connecticut Historical Society, who shall
29 be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

30 (6) A representative of the Connecticut League of History
31 Organizations, who shall be appointed by the minority leader of the
32 Senate;

33 (7) A representative of the Mary and Eliza Freeman Center for
34 History and Community, who shall be appointed by the Governor;

35 (8) The Secretary of the State, or the secretary's designee;

36 (9) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

37 (10) The State Historic Preservation Officer designated pursuant to 36
38 CFR 61.2, or the officer's designee;

39 (11) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
40 or the commissioner's designee;

41 (12) The State Historian, or the State Historian's designee; and

42 (13) The State Librarian, or the State Librarian's designee.

43 (c) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not later
44 than sixty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
45 be filled by the appointing authority. Members of the commission shall
46 serve without compensation.

47 (d) The representative of Connecticut Humanities, appointed by the
48 speaker of the House of Representatives or the representative's
49 designee, shall be the chairperson of the commission. The Secretary of
50 the State, or the secretary's designee, shall be the vice-chairperson of the
51 commission. The chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the
52 commission, which shall be held not later than sixty days after all initial
53 appointments to the commission are made pursuant to subsection (c) of
54 this section.

55 (e) A majority of the membership of the commission shall constitute
56 a quorum, but the commission may hold meetings without a quorum.
57 Any decision shall be made by a majority vote of members present at a
58 meeting at which there is a quorum. The commission may adopt rules
59 of procedure.

60 (f) The commission shall have the following duties: (1)
61 Commemorate the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution and
62 Connecticut's participation and contributions to it, including, but not
63 limited to, developing activities in recognition of the historic, social,
64 legal, cultural and political forces that caused the American Revolution
65 and influenced its course and outcomes; (2) collaborate with and assist
66 other state and national organizations with programs and activities for
67 the observance of the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution
68 in the state; (3) facilitate American Revolution-related activities
69 throughout the state; (4) provide assistance to municipalities and
70 nonprofit organizations for the development of programs, projects and
71 activities pertaining to the American Revolution that have lasting
72 educational value within the state; and (5) support the creation of
73 educational opportunities for students and all members of the public
74 who wish to explore the intricacies of the founding period of the United
75 States.

76 (g) To carry out the provisions of this section, the commission may
77 take the following actions: (1) Engage in any activity permitted by a tax-
78 exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
79 Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code
80 of the United States, as from time to time amended; (2) solicit, accept
81 and use grants and charitable funds made available by the United States
82 government or any United States agency to commemorate the
83 semiquincentennial of the American Revolution; (3) work in conjunction
84 with any tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
85 Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal
86 revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, with
87 a similar mission to solicit, accept and use funds or in-kind contributions
88 from private entities to commemorate the semiquincentennial of the
89 American Revolution; (4) request funds from the General Assembly to
90 commemorate the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution; (5)
91 establish any advisory or subcommittee that the commission deems
92 necessary; or (6) authorize any member of the commission to take any
93 action that the commission is authorized to take pursuant to this section.

94 (h) Each state agency shall provide advice and information to the
95 commission upon the commission's request if such information is
96 consistent with the commissions purpose and duties as set forth in
97 subsections (a) and (f) of this section.

98 (i) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the
99 commission shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
100 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding the activities of the commission,
101 including, but not limited to, an accounting of any funds received or
102 expended by the commission, to the joint standing committees of the
103 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government
104 administration, education, appropriations and commerce. Not later
105 than October 1, 2026, the commission shall report, in accordance with
106 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding the
107 activities of the commission, including, but not limited to, a final
108 accounting of any funds received or expended by the commission to the
109 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance

110 of matters relating to government administration, education,
111 appropriations and commerce. The commission shall terminate on
112 January 1, 2033, or, if the commission deems appropriate, before said
113 date.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To establish a commission to commemorate the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the American Revolution.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]