



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5374

February Session, 2022



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

- 20 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members:
- 21 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
22 who shall be a representative of Connecticut Humanities;
- 23 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
24 shall be a representative of the Connecticut Democracy Center;
- 25 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
26 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Mohegan Tribe;
- 27 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
28 a representative of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation;
- 29 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
30 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut
31 Historical Society;
- 32 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
33 a representative of the Connecticut League of History Organizations;
- 34 (7) Four appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a
35 representative of the Mary and Eliza Freeman Center for History and
36 Community and one of whom shall be a student or youth leader
37 recommended by the executive director of the Old State House;
- 38 (8) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee;
- 39 (9) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;
- 40 (10) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
41 or the commissioner's designee;
- 42 (11) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, or the
43 commissioner's designee;
- 44 (12) The State Historic Preservation Officer designated pursuant to 36
45 CFR 61.2, or the officer's designee;

46 (13) The State Historian, or the State Historian's designee; and

47 (14) The State Librarian, or the State Librarian's designee.

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

52 (d) The Governor shall appoint a chairperson and vice-chairperson
53 from among the members of the commission or their designees. The
54 chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the commission, which
55 shall be held not later than sixty days after all initial appointments to the
56 commission are made pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

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

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

77 States.

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

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

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

110 accounting of any funds received or expended by the commission to the
111 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
112 of matters relating to government administration, education,
113 appropriations and commerce. The commission shall terminate on
114 January 1, 2028, or, if the commission deems appropriate, before said
115 date.

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

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1, "(NEW)" was deleted for consistency with the general statutes.

CE *Joint Favorable Subst.*