

1 SJR58
2 206959-1
3 By Senators Orr, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Burkette,
4 Butler, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Elliott,
5 Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Holley, Jones, Livingston, Marsh,
6 McClendon, Melson, Price, Reed, Roberts, Sanders-Fortier,
7 Scofield, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stutts,
8 Waggoner, Ward, Whatley and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 04-MAY-20

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8 JOINT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA USA
9 SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION.

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11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
12 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING:

13 (a) There is created the Alabama USA
14 Semiquincentennial Commission. The principal purpose of the
15 commission shall be to plan, promote, and implement where
16 appropriate public celebrations and commemorations of the
17 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July
18 4, 2026, and of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of
19 America.

20 (b) The commission is authorized to cooperate with
21 the United States Semiquincentennial Commission created by
22 Public Law 114-196, other national and state organizations
23 engaged in commemoration and celebration of the United States
24 Semiquincentennial, and other national, regional, state, and
25 local public and private organizations having compatible
26 purposes. It shall encourage various state agencies and

1 organizations to work cooperatively to promote the
2 Semiquincentennial.

3 (c) The commission shall consider promoting and
4 encouraging as part of its celebratory and commemorative
5 events, electronic media, printed products, symposia, and
6 educational outreach all of the following:

7 (1) Awareness and understanding of the principles of
8 the Declaration of Independence, of the winning of American
9 independence in the American Revolutionary War, and of the
10 establishment of America's system of constitutional
11 self-government.

12 (2) Teaching students and increasing public
13 knowledge and appreciation of the breadth of American history
14 and the centuries-long quest for "liberty and justice for
15 all." This includes sharing the stories and contributions of
16 the various people who have populated the land, from
17 indigenous peoples, explorers, British colonists, seekers of
18 religious freedom, enslaved African Americans, and many others
19 who are part of America's stories.

20 (3) Advancing the cause of liberty and American
21 self-government and of the meaning of "E Pluribus Unum" ("From
22 many, one"), through promoting civic knowledge and practice,
23 including America's "Charters of Freedom" (the Declaration of
24 Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights), and
25 the constitutional features of self-government which emphasize
26 the roles of active and engaged good citizens.

1 (4) Emphasizing the service and sacrifices of
2 veterans of all generations who have secured and preserved
3 American independence and freedom and encouraging Alabamians
4 to honor them through our State's Veterans Register of Honor.

5 (5) Celebratory and commemorative events and
6 activities throughout the State of Alabama and its sixty-seven
7 counties and its many municipalities. The American Village
8 campus of the Citizenship Trust ("Trust") chartered pursuant
9 to Section 16-44A-30 et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, is
10 designated as an Alabama "celebration capitol" of the
11 commission and a national and regional welcome and education
12 center for the United States Semiquincentennial.

13 (d) Membership of the commission shall consist of
14 eleven voting members as follows:

15 (1) The Governor of Alabama who shall serve as
16 Honorary Chair of the commission.

17 (2) Two members appointed by the Lieutenant
18 Governor.

19 (3) Two members appointed by the President Pro
20 Tempore of the Senate and two members appointed by the Speaker
21 of the House of Representatives.

22 (4) Two members who are Alabamians serving on the
23 United States Semiquincentennial Commission as certified by
24 the executive officer of that commission.

25 (5) Two citizens at large, appointed by the
26 Governor.

1 (6) Members shall serve for the life of the
2 commission, provided any public official's expiration of his
3 or her term shall create a vacancy, and all vacancies shall be
4 filled in the same manner as originally appointed.

5 (e) The appointing authorities shall coordinate
6 their appointments so that diversity of gender, race, and
7 geographical areas is reflective of the makeup of this state.

8 (f) (1) The commission shall elect its chair, vice
9 chair and any other officers it deems necessary and shall
10 adopt its rules for establishment of a quorum and conduct of
11 business.

12 (2) Commission members shall serve without
13 compensation or expenses, but legislative members may receive
14 legislative expenses.

15 (3) The chair, with concurrence of the commission,
16 may designate the chief executive officer of an agency or
17 non-profit organization created or chartered by legislative
18 act, or another qualified individual, to serve as the
19 executive officer and secretary of the commission. The
20 executive officer shall serve without additional compensation
21 but may be reimbursed for expenses as provided for state
22 employees. He or she shall exercise such powers delegated by
23 the commission, including the right to apply for, receive,
24 accept, deposit, and administer pursuant to commission
25 authorization any federal, state, or local public or private
26 funds given for express use by the commission for the
27 Semiquincentennial.

1 (4) No elected public official serving on the
2 commission shall be involved in soliciting any private funds
3 or gifts for the commission.

4 (g) The chair of the commission, with concurrence of
5 the commission, shall constitute one or more advisory
6 committees to advise the commission. The committees may
7 include such representatives as the respective executive
8 officer or his or her designee of any of the following: The
9 Alabama Department of Archives and History, the Alabama
10 Department of Tourism, the Alabama Department of Education,
11 the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the Alabama
12 Community College System, the Alabama Department of Economic
13 Development, the Alabama Department of Military Affairs, the
14 Alabama Historical Commission, or the Alabama Department of
15 Veterans Affairs; and representatives of presidents of
16 Alabama's public colleges and universities, Alabama's
17 historically black colleges and universities, community
18 colleges, and various associations and organizations of city
19 and county officials, state historical, educational,
20 patriotic, civic, religious, military and veterans
21 organizations, and community improvement and other
22 organizations.

23 (h) The commission shall make an annual written
24 report and make any recommendations to the Governor and
25 Legislature at least thirty days prior to the convening of
26 each Regular Session of the Legislature, commencing in 2021
27 and continuing through its final report in 2027. The

1 commission shall consider and recommend ways for the state to
2 commemorate the Semiquincentennial through state and local
3 legacy projects for the state at large and for counties and
4 municipalities, and ways to enhance educational programs and
5 extended learning offered by local boards of education, the
6 Department of Education, Citizenship Trust, relevant state
7 agencies and departments, two and four year institutions of
8 higher education, including historically black colleges and
9 universities.

10 (i) The commission and its advisory committees shall
11 be dissolved upon the adjournment of the Regular Session in
12 2027.