

1 AN ACT establishing a commission to celebrate the sestercentennial anniversary of  
2 Harrodsburg.

3 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

4 WHEREAS, Harrodsburg was founded on June 16, 1774, by settlers led by James  
5 Harrod; and

6 WHEREAS, Harrodsburg was the first permanent pioneer settlement west of the  
7 Allegheny Mountains; and

8 WHEREAS, Old Fort Harrod State Park was established in 1927 to memorialize  
9 these intrepid pioneers; and

10 WHEREAS, Old Fort Harrod State Park has been a vital contributor to the  
11 community and economy of Harrodsburg and Mercer County as a whole; and

12 WHEREAS, it is vital to preserve the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in  
13 order to educate future generations of Kentuckians; and

14 WHEREAS, the years 1774 to 1776 were critical to the founding of the  
15 Commonwealth of Kentucky, the creation of the Declaration of Independence, and the  
16 formation of United States of America; and

17 WHEREAS, Kentuckians contributed so much to the American Revolution with  
18 many Kentuckians heeding the call to arms to help secure our independence from Great  
19 Britain; and

20 WHEREAS, the town of Harrodsburg, the first permanent English settlement west  
21 of the Allegheny Mountains, was first settled in 1774 and will celebrate 250 years of  
22 history in 2024;

23 NOW, THEREFORE,

24 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

25 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 148 IS CREATED TO  
26 READ AS FOLLOWS:

27 **(1) As used in this section:**

- 1        (a) "Commission" means the Harrodsburg Sestercentennial Commission  
2                established in subsection (2) of this section; and
- 3        (b) "Sestercentennial" means the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the  
4                founding of Harrodsburg on June 16, 1774.
- 5        (2) The Harrodsburg Sestercentennial Commission is hereby established to plan  
6                encourage, develop, and coordinate events and other activities related to the two  
7                hundred fiftieth anniversary of Harrodsburg in 2024. To accomplish its charge,  
8                the commission shall:
- 9                (a) Ensure that adequate way-finding signage and mapping is accomplished to  
10                mark and identify Old Fort Harrod State Park;
- 11                (b) Educate citizens of the Commonwealth and the nation about the stories of  
12                pioneers and Native Americans in the early days of westward settlement and  
13                the impact Harrodsburg and settlements of its nature had on Kentucky and  
14                American history;
- 15                (c) Plan and implement events for a year-long sestercentennial  
16                commemoration in the year 2024 of the founding of Harrodsburg and  
17                whatever events in the immediately preceding and following years are  
18                deemed appropriate by the commission, including any battlefield  
19                commemorations if funds are available;
- 20                (d) Assist local governments and their representatives with planning,  
21                preparation, and grant applications for sestercentennial events and projects;
- 22                (e) Coordinate federal, state, local, and nonprofit organizations'  
23                sestercentennial activities occurring in Kentucky;
- 24                (f) Coordinate events and activities with parties, commissions, and  
25                organizations wishing to participate in the 2024 commemoration;
- 26                (g) Act as a point of contact for national organizations wishing to distribute  
27                information to state and local groups about grant opportunities, meetings,

- 1           and national events related to the settlement of Harrodsburg and  
2           sestercentennial activities;
- 3           (h) Seek funding sources such as foundations, line items, federal grants,  
4           philanthropic organizations, and lineage societies;
- 5           (i) Create press, print, and electronic contacts that generate stories on a  
6           continual basis;
- 7           (j) Encourage and contract new publications and create a call for papers on  
8           Harrodsburg, Fort Harrod, James Harrod, or other participating or  
9           involved parties, and how the history of this early frontier settlement  
10           impacted American history;
- 11           (k) Organize symposiums and other methodologies to investigate genealogy  
12           relative to Harrodsburg;
- 13           (l) Create higher and lower educational programs;
- 14           (m) Perform other duties necessary to educate Kentuckians on the history of  
15           Harrodsburg and early frontier settlements and on the Commonwealth's  
16           role in early westward expansion;
- 17           (n) Evaluate the existing infrastructure of Old Fort Harrod State Park, provide  
18           recommendations for what infrastructure should be in place for the  
19           successful undertaking of appropriate events and activities in accordance  
20           with this section, and coordinate with state and local bodies to make  
21           necessary infrastructure improvements; and
- 22           (o) Coordinate planning for the sestercentennial with the nonprofit  
23           organization Harrodsburg 250th, Inc., this organization having been  
24           established by the local governments of Harrodsburg and Mercer County to  
25           serve as the point of contact for local planning for the sestercentennial.
- 26           (3) The commission shall consist of the following eleven (11) members:
- 27           (a) The secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet or his

- 1           or her designee;
- 2           (b) The secretary of the Transportation Cabinet or his or her designee;
- 3           (c) Two (2) members from the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, appointed  
4           by the secretary of the cabinet;
- 5           (d) One (1) member from the Kentucky Heritage Council, appointed by the  
6           state historic preservation officer;
- 7           (e) One (1) member of the Kentucky Humanities Council, appointed by the  
8           chair of the council;
- 9           (f) One (1) member of the Harrodsburg 250th, Inc., recommended by the chair  
10           of that organization and appointed by the Governor;
- 11           (g) One (1) member of the Friends of Fort Harrod, recommended by the leader  
12           of that organization and appointed by the Governor; and
- 13           (h) Three (3) citizen members appointed by the Governor, one (1) of whom  
14           shall be designated as the chair.
- 15           (4) The Harrodsburg Sestercentennial Commission shall be attached to the Kentucky  
16           Historical Society for administrative purposes only.
- 17           (5) This section shall expire on January 1, 2027.