

1 AN ACT relating to the establishment of historical commissions.

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

4 WHEREAS, Harrodsburg was the first permanent pioneer settlement west of the
5 Allegheny Mountains; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Boone Trace, marked by Daniel Boone and his party of trailblazers in
22 1775, was the primary entrance for Europeans moving westward into what is now
23 Kentucky, creating the genesis for westward movement; and

24 WHEREAS, Native Americans, who lived in what is now Kentucky for thousands
25 of years, were catastrophically affected by this European westward expansion; and

26 WHEREAS, African Americans during this period were some of the first enslaved
27 people who traveled into what is now Kentucky and brought slavery into the region for

1 the first time; and

2 WHEREAS, the United States Sestercentennial Commission was established to
3 provide for the observance and commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding
4 of the United States and related events through local, state, national, and international
5 activities, planned, encouraged, developed, and coordinated by a national commission
6 representative of appropriate public and private authorities and organizations; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States Sestercentennial Commission has encouraged states
8 to establish state-level commissions to plan and coordinate activities within each state
9 celebrating the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding; and

10 WHEREAS, the establishment of a Kentucky Sestercentennial Commission would
11 enhance tourism, economic development, historic appreciation, historic preservation,
12 genealogical connections, and outdoor recreation within the Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, the parks system of the Commonwealth of Kentucky will reach 100
14 years of service to the citizens of the Commonwealth in 2024; and

15 WHEREAS, since its commencement in 1924 with the creation of Cumberland
16 State Park, now known as Pine Mountain State Park, the parks system has grown to
17 include 46 resorts, recreational parks, and historic sites throughout the Commonwealth;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the parks system provides recreational opportunities for hiking,
20 camping, boating, fishing, golfing, horseback riding, and caving within the naturally
21 beautiful landscapes of the Commonwealth; and

22 WHEREAS, the parks system provides educational opportunities for the public to
23 experience the history of the Commonwealth; and

24 WHEREAS, the parks system has contributed to the economic well-being of the
25 Commonwealth by drawing out-of-state tourists to its lakes, trails, and campgrounds; and

26 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth would be the poorer if the Kentucky State Parks
27 system had not been established;

1 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

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

6 *(a) "Commission" means the Harrodsburg Sestercentennial Commission*
7 *established in subsection (2) of this section; and*

8 *(b) "Sestercentennial" means the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the*
9 *founding of Harrodsburg on June 16, 1774.*

10 *(2) The Harrodsburg Sestercentennial Commission is hereby established to plan,*
11 *encourage, develop, and coordinate events and other activities related to the two*
12 *hundred fiftieth anniversary of Harrodsburg in 2024. To accomplish its charge,*
13 *the commission shall:*

14 *(a) Ensure that adequate way-finding signage and mapping is accomplished to*
15 *mark and identify Old Fort Harrod State Park;*

16 *(b) Educate citizens of the Commonwealth and the nation about the stories of*
17 *pioneers and Native Americans in the early days of westward settlement and*
18 *the impact Harrodsburg and settlements of its nature had on Kentucky and*
19 *American history;*

20 *(c) Plan and implement events for a year-long sestercentennial*
21 *commemoration in the year 2024 of the founding of Harrodsburg and*
22 *whatever events in the immediately preceding and following years are*
23 *deemed appropriate by the commission, including any battlefield*
24 *commemorations if funds are available;*

25 *(d) Assist local governments and their representatives with planning,*
26 *preparation, and grant applications for sestercentennial events and projects;*

27 *(e) Coordinate federal, state, local, and nonprofit organizations'*

- 1 sestercentennial activities occurring in Kentucky;
- 2 (f) Coordinate events and activities with parties, commissions, and
3 organizations wishing to participate in the 2024 commemoration;
- 4 (g) Act as a point of contact for national organizations wishing to distribute
5 information to state and local groups about grant opportunities, meetings,
6 and national events related to the settlement of Harrodsburg and
7 sestercentennial activities;
- 8 (h) Seek funding sources such as foundations, line item appropriations, federal
9 grants, philanthropic organizations, and lineage societies;
- 10 (i) Create press, print, and electronic contacts that generate stories on a
11 continual basis;
- 12 (j) Encourage and contract new publications and create a call for papers on
13 Harrodsburg, Fort Harrod, James Harrod, or other participating or
14 involved parties, and how the history of this early frontier settlement
15 impacted American history;
- 16 (k) Organize symposiums and other methodologies to investigate genealogy
17 relative to Harrodsburg;
- 18 (l) Create higher and lower educational programs;
- 19 (m) Perform other duties necessary to educate Kentuckians on the history of
20 Harrodsburg and early frontier settlements and on the Commonwealth's
21 role in early westward expansion;
- 22 (n) Evaluate the existing infrastructure of Old Fort Harrod State Park, provide
23 recommendations for what infrastructure should be in place for the
24 successful undertaking of appropriate events and activities in accordance
25 with this section, and coordinate with state and local bodies to make
26 necessary infrastructure improvements; and
- 27 (o) Coordinate planning for the sestercentennial with the nonprofit

1 organization Harrodsburg 250th, Inc., this organization having been
 2 established by the local governments of Harrodsburg and Mercer County to
 3 serve as the point of contact for local planning for the sestercentennial.

4 (3) The commission shall consist of the following eleven (11) members:

5 (a) The secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet or his
 6 or her designee;

7 (b) The secretary of the Transportation Cabinet or his or her designee;

8 (c) Two (2) members from the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, appointed
 9 by the secretary of the cabinet;

10 (d) One (1) member from the Kentucky Heritage Council, appointed by the
 11 state historic preservation officer;

12 (e) One (1) member of the Kentucky Humanities Council, appointed by the
 13 chair of the council;

14 (f) One (1) member of Harrodsburg 250th, Inc., recommended by the chair of
 15 that organization and appointed by the Governor;

16 (g) One (1) member of the Friends of Fort Harrod, recommended by the leader
 17 of that organization and appointed by the Governor; and

18 (h) Three (3) citizen members appointed by the Governor, one (1) of whom
 19 shall be designated as the chair.

20 (4) The Harrodsburg Sestercentennial Commission shall be attached to the Kentucky
 21 Historical Society for administrative purposes only.

22 (5) This section shall expire on January 1, 2027.

23 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 148 IS CREATED TO
 24 READ AS FOLLOWS:

25 (1) The Kentucky State Parks Centennial Commission is established to plan and
 26 implement events to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the state parks
 27 system in 2024. To accomplish its charge, the commission shall:

- 1 (a) Assist local governments and organizations with planning, preparation, and
2 grant applications for parks centennial events and projects;
- 3 (b) Coordinate events and activities with parties, commissions, and
4 organizations wishing to participate in the centennial celebration;
- 5 (c) Seek funding sources such as foundations, line item appropriations, federal
6 grants, and philanthropic organizations;
- 7 (d) Establish press, print, and electronic contacts that generate stories on a
8 continual basis; and
- 9 (e) Perform other duties necessary to highlight Kentucky's parks system during
10 its one hundredth year.
- 11 (2) The Kentucky State Parks Centennial Commission shall consist of the following
12 nine (9) members:
- 13 (a) The secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet or his or her
14 designee;
- 15 (b) One (1) additional member from the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet,
16 appointed by the secretary;
- 17 (c) One (1) member from the Kentucky Historical Society, appointed by the
18 executive director of the society;
- 19 (d) One (1) member from the Kentucky Heritage Council, appointed by the
20 state historic preservation officer;
- 21 (e) Three (3) members selected by the secretary of the Tourism, Arts and
22 Heritage Cabinet who work in onsite park leadership; and
- 23 (f) Two (2) citizen members, one (1) of whom shall be designated as the chair
24 and appointed by the Governor.
- 25 (3) The Kentucky State Parks Centennial Commission shall be attached to the
26 Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet for administrative purposes only.
- 27 (4) This section shall expire on January 1, 2025.

1 ➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 148 IS CREATED TO
2 READ AS FOLLOWS:

3 (1) As used in this section:

4 (a) "Commission" means the Kentucky Sestercentennial Commission
5 established in subsection (2) of this section; and

6 (b) "Sestercentennial" means the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of historic
7 events from 1774 to 1776 that include the founding of Harrodsburg in 1774,
8 the opening of Boone Trace in 1775, the genesis of westward movement,
9 and the important events tied to our nation's founding in 1776.

10 (2) The Kentucky Sestercentennial Commission is hereby established to plan and
11 implement events to celebrate the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of Old Fort
12 Harrod in 2024, culminating with the Declaration of Independence in 1776. To
13 accomplish its charge, the commission shall:

14 (a) Elect a chair of the commission and have the authority to form
15 subcommittees and working groups that include non-commission members
16 in order to plan, develop, and coordinate specific activities;

17 (b) Plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the two
18 hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United States and
19 recognize Kentucky's integral role in that event and the impact of its people
20 on the nation's past, present, and future;

21 (c) Ensure that adequate way-finding signage and mapping is accomplished to
22 mark and identify the relevant points of interest and routes involved in the
23 founding of Kentucky and the opening of the west;

24 (d) Educate citizens of the Commonwealth and the nation about the stories of
25 pioneers, African Americans, and Native Americans in the early days of
26 westward settlement and the impact Fort Harrod and Fort Boonesborough
27 had on Kentucky and American history;

- 1 (e) Plan and implement events for a three (3) year sestercentennial
2 commemoration of the years 2024 to 2026 and following years deemed
3 appropriate by the commission, including any battlefield commemorations
4 if funds are available;
- 5 (f) Assist local governments with planning, preparation, and grant applications
6 for sestercentennial events and projects;
- 7 (g) Coordinate federal, state, local, and nonprofit organizations'
8 sestercentennial activities occurring in Kentucky;
- 9 (h) Coordinate events and activities with parties, commissions, and
10 organizations wishing to participate in the commemoration;
- 11 (i) Seek funding sources such as foundations, line item appropriations, federal
12 grants, philanthropic organizations, and lineage societies;
- 13 (j) Establish press, print, and electronic contacts that generate stories on a
14 continual basis;
- 15 (k) Encourage and contract new publications and create a call for papers on
16 how the history of this early frontier settlement impacted American history;
- 17 (l) Organize symposiums and other methodologies to investigate genealogy
18 relative to the events involved in the founding of Kentucky and opening of
19 the west;
- 20 (m) Create higher and lower educational programs; and
- 21 (n) Perform other duties necessary to educate Kentuckians on the history of
22 early frontier settlements and on the Commonwealth's role in early
23 westward expansion and to highlight the importance of the years 1774 to
24 1776 to Kentucky history.
- 25 (3) The commission shall consist of the following fourteen (14) members:
- 26 (a) The secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet or his
27 or her designee;

- 1 **(b) One (1) member from the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet appointed by**
 2 **the secretary of the cabinet;**
- 3 **(c) One (1) member from the Kentucky Heritage Council, appointed by the**
 4 **state historic preservation officer;**
- 5 **(d) One (1) member from the Kentucky Humanities Council, appointed by the**
 6 **chair of the council;**
- 7 **(e) One (1) member of the Friends of Fort Harrod, recommended by the leader**
 8 **of that organization and appointed by the Governor;**
- 9 **(f) Three (3) citizen members appointed by the Governor, one (1) of whom**
 10 **shall be designated as the chair;**
- 11 **(g) The commissioner of the Department of Parks or his or her designee;**
- 12 **(h) The president of Friends of Boone Trace, Inc. or his or her designee;**
- 13 **(i) The president of the Fort Boonesborough Foundation, or his or her**
 14 **designee;**
- 15 **(j) One (1) member from the Kentucky African American Heritage**
 16 **Commission appointed by the chair of that commission;**
- 17 **(k) One (1) member of the Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission**
 18 **appointed by the chair of that commission; and**
- 19 **(l) One (1) member of the Kentucky Historical Society appointed by the**
 20 **executive director of the society.**
- 21 **(4) The Kentucky Sestercentennial Commission shall be attached to the Kentucky**
 22 **Historical Society for administrative purposes only.**
- 23 **(5) This section shall expire on January 1, 2027.**

24 ➔Section 4. Sections 1 and 3 of this Act, as codified following the 2021 Regular
 25 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, shall be repealed effective January 1, 2027.
 26 Section 2 of this Act, as codified following the 2021 Regular Session of the Kentucky
 27 General Assembly, shall be repealed effective January 1, 2025.