

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 809

BY REPRESENTATIVES TUCKER, ANDERS, ARNOLD, BALDONE, BARRAS, BILLIOT, HENRY BURNS, CARMODY, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, CHANEY, CONNICK, CROMER, DOVE, DOWNS, FOIL, GISCLAIR, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARDY, HARRISON, HOFFMANN, HOWARD, MICHAEL JACKSON, SAM JONES, KATZ, KLECKLEY, LEGER, LIGI, LITTLE, LORUSSO, MONTOUCET, NORTON, PONTI, POPE, RICHARD, RICHARDSON, RICHMOND, ROBIDEAUX, GARY SMITH, PATRICIA SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STIAES, TEMPLET, THIBAUT, AND WHITE AND SENATOR WALSWORTH

HISTORIC COMMEMORATION: Creates the La. Bicentennial Commission for the purpose of commemorating the anniversary of Louisiana's attainment of statehood

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 27 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised
3 of R.S. 25:1231 through 1237, and R.S. 36:209(Q), to create the Louisiana
4 Bicentennial Commission; to provide for membership on the commission and its
5 operation; to provide relative to powers, duties, and activities of the commission; to
6 provide relative to funds and property of the commission; to provide for termination
7 of the commission; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Chapter 27 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
10 comprised of R.S. 25:1231 through 1237, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 CHAPTER 27. LOUISIANA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

12 §1231. Declaration of purpose

13 A. The Legislature of Louisiana hereby recognizes that the year 2012 marks
14 the two hundredth anniversary of Louisiana's attainment of statehood upon its
15 admission by congress as the eighteenth state in the Union.

1 B. The legislature further recognizes that, as the state approaches its
2 bicentennial of statehood, it is appropriate to celebrate and commemorate this
3 anniversary through local and statewide observances and activities planned,
4 encouraged, coordinated, and conducted by a commission created for such purpose.

5 §1232. Louisiana Bicentennial Commission; creation; appointments of members;
6 officers; meetings; domicile

7 A. The Louisiana Bicentennial Commission, hereafter referred to as the
8 "commission", is hereby created and established in the Department of Culture,
9 Recreation and Tourism for the purpose of leading the state in its commemoration
10 of attaining statehood.

11 B.(1) The commission shall consist of members appointed as follows:

12 (a) Three members appointed by the governor.

13 (b) Three members appointed by the lieutenant governor.

14 (c) Three members appointed by the president of the Senate.

15 (d) Three members appointed by the speaker of the House of
16 Representatives.

17 (2) The twelve members of the commission shall be appointed in such a
18 manner that at least one member shall be from each congressional district in the state
19 of Louisiana as each such district exists on the effective date of this Paragraph. In
20 addition, the appointing authorities shall make such appointments in such manner as
21 to assure that the commission membership shall reflect as nearly as possible a cross
22 section of the race, gender, and economic status of the state's population.

23 (3) Members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. A
24 vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner as
25 the original appointment.

26 C. The members of the commission shall elect a chairman, vice chairman,
27 and other officers and may employ such staff as they deem necessary for the efficient
28 operation of the business of the commission.

1 D. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but
2 they shall be reimbursed, on a vouchered basis, for actual expenses, including travel
3 expenses, to the extent that funds are made available for such purpose; however, no
4 public funds shall be expended by the commission unless specifically appropriated
5 by the legislature for such purpose.

6 E. The commission shall hold its initial meeting no later than October 1,
7 2010, and thereafter shall meet at least monthly according to a schedule established
8 by it. Special meetings shall be held on call of the chairman or of a quorum of the
9 members of the commission. For all regular or special meetings, the chairman or
10 other members calling the meeting shall give at least seven days notice to the
11 members of the commission of the time and place where the meeting will be held.
12 A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the
13 transaction of any and all business at any regular or special meeting.

14 F. The commission shall be domiciled in Baton Rouge but may hold public
15 meetings elsewhere in the state.

16 §1233. Powers and duties

17 The commission shall:

18 (1) Plan and develop activities appropriate to commemorate the bicentennial
19 of Louisiana's statehood, including a limited number of projects to be undertaken
20 by the state seeking to harmonize and balance the important goals of ceremony and
21 celebration with the equally important goals of scholarship and education.

22 (2) Encourage private organizations and local governments to organize and
23 participate in bicentennial activities commemorating and examining the historic
24 events associated with Louisiana's statehood.

25 (3) Serve as a clearinghouse for collecting and disseminating information
26 about bicentennial events and plans in the state.

27 (4) Cooperate and coordinate with any similar commission created by the
28 United States government or any other state in preparing to commemorate and
29 celebrate this important historical event.

1 (5) Encourage state agencies to develop bicentennial programs such as the
2 creation of commemorative automobile license plates and public programs in state
3 and local parks, museums, and libraries.

4 (6) Seek cooperation, advice, and assistance from both private and
5 governmental agencies and organizations, including local governments, learned
6 societies, academic institutions, and historical, patriotic, philanthropic, civic, and
7 professional groups and associations.

8 (7) Adopt rules and regulations regarding the use of any logos, symbols, or
9 marks originated under authority of and certified by the commission for use in
10 connection with the state commemoration of the bicentennial, or any facsimile
11 thereof.

12 §1234. Funding; donations and grants

13 The commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of any private or public
14 funds in the form of donations of money, grants, property, or personal services from
15 individuals, corporations, and governments for such purposes, all in accordance with
16 R.S. 36:810 and this Chapter. The office of management and finance of the
17 Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism may adopt any necessary rules or
18 procedures for determining the value of donations to the commission. The
19 commission shall, by April 1, 2011, present to the Joint Legislative Committee on
20 the Budget a master plan outlining the goals, objectives, and performance indicators
21 of the commission for the duration of its existence, which shall include projected
22 expenditures of the commission.

23 §1235. Annual report

24 The commission shall submit an annual report to the lieutenant governor, the
25 president of the Senate, and the speaker of the House of Representatives. Such
26 report shall be submitted no later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the regular
27 session of the legislature in 2011 and 2012. The reports shall include specific
28 recommendations and plans for commemorating and coordinating the bicentennial
29 and related activities.

Provides that the commission shall:

- (1) Plan and develop activities to commemorate La.'s bicentennial of statehood.
- (2) Encourage private organizations and local governments to participate.
- (3) Serve as a clearinghouse for information about bicentennial events and plans.
- (4) Cooperate and coordinate with any similar commission throughout the U.S.
- (5) Encourage state agencies to develop bicentennial programs.
- (6) Seek cooperation from private and governmental agencies and organizations.
- (7) Adopt rules and regulations regarding the use of any logos, symbols, or marks for use in connection with the bicentennial commemoration.

Authorizes the commission to solicit, accept, use, and dispose of money and other property. Provides that CRT may adopt rules or procedures for determining the value of donations.

Requires the commission, by April 1, 2011, to present the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget a master plan, including projected expenditures, and to submit an annual report to the lieutenant governor and the presiding officers of the legislature at least 30 days prior to the beginning of 2011 and 2012 R.S. Requires the cooperation of state agencies, officials, and subdivisions in carrying out proposed law.

Places the commission in CRT pursuant to present law which grants policymaking and rulemaking authority to the commission but which grants CRT certain personnel and fiscal and budgetary authority.

Provides that the commission shall terminate on Dec. 31, 2012.

(Adds R.S. 25:1231-1237 and R.S. 36:209(Q))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to the original bill.

1. Added requirement that members be appointed in such a manner that at least one member represents each congressional district.
2. Remainder of amendments are technical.

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Relative to board membership, added requirement that the appointing authorities make appointments in a manner which assures that the membership reflects as nearly as possible a cross section of the race, gender, and economic status of the state's population.