

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Relating to the America 250 Missouri Commission

Whereas, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and 250th anniversary of the United States of America are approaching in the coming years; and

Whereas, such anniversaries are worthy of celebration at both the federal and state levels; and

Whereas, in order to effect such a celebration in Missouri, there needs to be a coordinated effort at the state level:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundred Second General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby create the America 250 Missouri Commission; and

Be it Further Resolved that the principal purpose of the Commission shall be to plan, promote, and implement where appropriate public celebrations and commemorations of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026, and the 250th anniversary of the United States of America; and

Be it Further Resolved that the Commission is authorized to cooperate with the United States Semiquincentennial Commission created by Public Law 114-196, other national and state organizations engaged in commemoration and celebration of the United States Semiquincentennial, and other national, regional, state, and local public and private organizations having compatible purposes. It shall encourage various state agencies and organizations to work cooperatively to promote the Semiquincentennial; and

Be it Further Resolved that the Commission shall consider promoting and encouraging as part of its celebratory and commemorative events, electronic media, printed products, symposia, and educational outreach all of the following:

(1) Awareness and understanding of the principles of the Declaration of Independence, of the winning of American independence in the American Revolutionary War, and of the establishment of America's system of constitutional self-government;

(2) Teaching students and increasing public knowledge and appreciation of the breadth of American history and the centuries-long quest for "liberty and justice for all". This includes sharing the stories and contributions of the various people who have populated the land, from indigenous peoples, explorers, British colonists, seekers of religious freedom, enslaved African Americans, and many others who are part of America's stories. This should also include the commemoration of events that occurred in Missouri during the American Revolutionary War period, such as the Battle of Fort San Carlos in what is now the city of St. Louis in 1780;

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

(4) Emphasizing the service and sacrifices of veterans of all generations who have secured and preserved American independence and freedom and encouraging Missourians to honor them;

(5) Celebratory and commemorative events and activities throughout the State of Missouri; and

Be it Further Resolved that the membership of the Commission shall consist of thirteen voting members as follows:

(1) The Governor of Missouri who shall serve as chair of the commission;

(2) Two members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

(3) Two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(4) Two members who are Missourians serving on the United States Semiquincentennial Commission as certified by the executive officer of that Commission;

(5) One member who is a representative of the Missouri Society of the Sons of the American Revolution appointed by the Governor;

(6) One member who is a representative of the Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution appointed by the Governor;

(7) Two citizens at large, appointed by the Governor; and

Be it Further Resolved that members shall serve for the life of the Commission, provided any public official's expiration of his or her term shall create a vacancy, and all vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as originally appointed; and

Be it Further Resolved that the appointing authorities shall coordinate their appointments so that diversity of gender, race, and geographical areas is reflective of the makeup of this state; and

Be it Further Resolved that the Commission shall elect its chair, vice chair and any other officers it deems necessary. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum to conduct business; and

Be it Further Resolved that the Office of Administration shall provide administrative support for the Commission; and

Be it Further Resolved that the Commission, its members, and any staff assigned to the Commission shall receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses in attending meetings of the Commission, with such reimbursement for the legislative members only coming from the Joint Contingent Fund; and

Be it Further Resolved that the Commission shall terminate by either a majority of the members voting for termination, or by December 31, 2027, whichever occurs first; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to send a properly inscribed copy of this resolution to the Governor for his approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.