

2021 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1285

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1285 AM
1/22/2021

A Bill relating to a commission for the commemoration of the 250 years since America's founding; and to provide a continuing appropriation

Vice Chairman B. Koppelman opened the hearing at 9:18.

Roll Call taken.

Representatives	Roll Call
Representative Jim Kasper	P
Representative Ben Koppelman	P
Representative Pamela Anderson	P
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	P
Representative Karen Karls	P
Representative Scott Louser	P
Representative Jeffery J. Magrum	P
Representative Mitch Ostlie	P
Representative Karen M. Rohr	P
Representative Austen Schauer	P
Representative Mary Schneider	P
Representative Vicky Steiner	P
Representative Greg Stemen	P
Representative Steve Vetter	P

Discussion Topics:

- Plan to have state commission
- Visible placement in the state of Liberty Bell replica

Rep. Josh Boschee introduced the bill and testified in favor with testimony # 2226

Sandy Sidler, ND State Society Daughters of the American Revolution, #2054

Bill Peterson Director of State Historical Society answered questions on the Liberty Bell

Additional written testimony: #2166, #1687, #1274

Representative Rohr closed hearing at 9:33.

Carmen Hart, Committee Clerk by Marge Conley

January 22, 2020



North Dakota House of Representatives

State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0360

Representative
Josh Boschee
District 44
517 First Street North
Fargo, ND 58102-4540
C: 701-367-3513
jboschee@nd.gov

Minority Leader

HB 1285 Testimony House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Good morning Chair Kasper and members of the GVA Committee.

HB 1285 is enacting legislation to create a North Dakota specific America 250 Commission, to commemorate the 250 years since America's founding. Congress established a national America 250 Commission in 2016, who briefed former Vice President Pence of their work last January.

Attached is a letter I, and other legislative leaders received in early March of 2020 encouraging North Dakota to plan our own events for our nation's 250th anniversary in 2026. In all honestly, I didn't pay much attention to the letter as we were just starting to aggressively address issues related to COVID-19 in state. Fortunately, a north Fargo neighbor of mine, Sandy Sidler, serves as a regent for the ND State Society Daughters of the American Revolution and reached out to me this past fall to see if North Dakota could get a Commission started. You will hear from her shortly and have likely received written testimony from her and other members of the organization which has chapters throughout North Dakota.

While, there are still five years until our nation's 250th anniversary, enacting a Commission in the coming biennium will allow the Commission to begin the early work of laying the foundation for how cities, townships, school districts, Veterans groups, businesses and nonprofits throughout the state can be a part of much more in depth planning during the 2023-25 biennium to implement at least a year's worth of commemoration between July 2025 and July 2026.

As you see in section 1 of the bill, a comprehensive list of state agencies, policy makers and statewide nonprofits are being invited to provide leadership on the Commission to ensure it is as comprehensive as possible. In consultation with the state historical society, several of these entities were a part of the planning of our state's 125th Anniversary leading up to 2014 celebration.

Section 2 provides the powers and duties of the Commission. Subsection 2 of Section 2 allows the Commission to fundraise and receive funds from various entities to diversity funding sources. It is anticipated that the national America 250 Commission may have resources from Congress to help support state efforts, in addition to anything provided by private foundations, nonprofits, individuals, corporations and government entities. The attached fiscal note, prepared by the state historical society, requests \$25,000 in General Fund spending to begin the Commission's work over the next biennium.

Without a fundraising or development plan in place, for the purposes of the fiscal note, \$500,000 in General Fund spending, is identified to receive an equal amount from Congress. As the development plan and more details are provided by the national America 250 Commission, the state Commission will be able to provide a more accurate request for the 23-25 biennium inclusive of expected non-General Fund dollars to offset General Fund impact.

Subsection 4 of Section 2 lays out some of the overarching duties of the Commission. The bill is drafted with a few specifics including identifying locations in the state to display the, very heavy, replica of the liberty bell the state historical society has in it's collection and placement of a permanent plaque, provided by the State Society Daughters of the American Revolution, at a designated location in the state.

Attached to my testimony, are examples of how other states have already enacted their initial plans for their state's America 250 Commission.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, the creation of a North Dakota specific America 250 Commission will allow us to tell the story of North Dakota over the past 250 years. As our nation prepares to celebrate 250 years of democracy, we will be able to make significant contributions to those discussions in every corner of the state. School districts may have bolstered civics and history curriculum, communities may have one time or ongoing discussion of what being an American means to them, traveling exhibits may meander throughout the state to provide more North Dakotans an opportunity to learn and reflect and most importantly, we, as a state will be able to reaffirm our commitment to democracy, civil discourse and the opportunity for freedom for all.

I appreciate the committee's consideration of this legislation and hope that you can assist in developing a solution.

I will try my best to answer any questions committee members may have.

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/11/2021

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1285

- 1 A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2019-2021 Biennium		2021-2023 Biennium		2023-2025 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues	\$0	\$0				\$500,000
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$25,000		\$500,000	\$500,000
Appropriations	\$0	\$0	\$25,000		\$500,000	\$500,000

- 1 B. **County, city, school district and township fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

	2019-2021 Biennium	2021-2023 Biennium	2023-2025 Biennium
Counties	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cities	\$0	\$0	\$0
School Districts	\$0	\$0	\$0
Townships	\$0	\$0	\$0

- 2 A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

21-23 biennium is the planning of the 250th end of the Revolutionary war. These funds will be used to plan and implement the committee. 23-25 Expected to receive \$500K in federal revenues matched at 50% state general funds for events and exhibits relating to America 250.

- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

All 50 states are putting together commissions to look at the US in its 250th birthday. The commission will need funding to support those efforts and facilitate programs, exhibits, educational initiatives throughout the State. We expect federal support to match state funds.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

- A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

\$500,000 We expect federal grant funds to be available for this commemoration. There may even be other grant sources available as it is expected that is is a nationwide series of events happening throughout 2026.

- B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

21-23 \$25,000 appropriations for the commission to meet and function and host meetings and planning sessions. Expenditures would relate the committee work. 23-25 \$250000 per year. We expect to that funds would be spent throughout the state on the creation of exhibits, events, festivals, seminars, symposia, etc that explore the America at 250. conceptually similar to the 1976 bicentennial or 125th anniversary of statehood, this will be a chance for communities across the state to have events relating to the 250th. We expect most of these funds will be matched in local and federal grants.

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation or a part of the appropriation is included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

\$500,000 We are anticipating federal funding for much of this commemoration. However, we estimate that there will be some cost to ND for partaking in the national commemoration of the 250th years since 1776. \$25K in 2021-23 for planning and organizational needs. In the next biennium 2023-2025 \$250K per year for the production of events. It does seem likely that this may become part of an executive budget. The projects will be completed in 2025-2027 biennium and there is no current estimate of what that amount may entail.

Name: Bill Peterson

Agency: State Historical Society

Telephone: 17013282724

Date Prepared: 01/13/2021

UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL
COMMISSION

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Governor of North Dakota
Office of the Governor
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001

The Honorable David Hogue
Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
P.O. Box 1000
Minot, ND 58702-1000

The Honorable Lawrence Klemin
Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
3929 Valley Drive
Bismarck, ND 58503-1729

The Honorable Joan Heckaman
Office of the Senate Minority Leader
322 Second Avenue North
New Rockford, ND 58356-1712

The Honorable Josh Boschee
Office of the Assembly Minority Leader
517 First Street North
Fargo, ND 58102-4540

Dear North Dakota Leaders:

I have the honor of serving as Chairman of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, which is the official government body established by Congress to prepare an overall program for commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

The Commission is charged with planning and coordinating observances and activities associated with the 250th anniversary throughout the country. The Commission will be at the center of a network of federal, state, territorial, and local entities working together to make the 250th a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all Americans.

After a comprehensive 16-month strategic planning process, we completed our statutory requirement of submitting a Strategic Plan and Report to the President on December 31, 2019. On January 15, 2020, Vice President Pence invited members of the Commission to the White House to present an overview of our work along with a copy of the report.

This initiative, which will be referred to commonly as 'America 250', anticipates nearly 137,000 programs—the vast majority of which will be state- and territory-led initiatives resulting in billions of dollars in resources that will ripple through our local, state, territorial, and national economies. America 250 is organizing itself to support those state and territorial efforts.

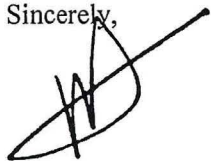
State- and territorial-level involvement is the Commission's top priority. Several states have created Semiquincentennial entities to administer and organize their 250th programming. We strongly encourage you to establish an entity so that we can begin to work with you in commemorating the 250th. We stand ready to provide our advice and support.

As referenced in the enabling legislation, I look forward to working with you to discuss America 250 and how we can coordinate in engaging nearly 350,000,000 of our fellow Americans in the largest event in our history.

Please contact me or Frank Giordano, Executive Director of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, at fgiordano@america250.gov or 202-871-1776 to schedule a time when we can meet.

I look forward to working with you and your state on this historic undertaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dan DiLella', written over a horizontal line.

Dan DiLella
Chairman, U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission
ddilella@america250.gov

AMERICA250

U.S. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION
AMERICA 250 FOUNDATION

States' Acts Establishing Entities To Commemorate The 250th Anniversary of American Independence

Eight states have already established entities responsible for administering and organizing their individual commemorations of the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence.

The entities take one of two forms (or a hybrid of the two):

1. Direct an existing executive agency to plan, create, and administer the state's celebrations.
2. Create a new commission to plan, create, and administer the state's celebrations.

Legislation that established entities follows the brief summaries.

The national semiquincentennial commemoration is expected to include elements that increase emphasis on history education, particularly America's founding principles and documents, as well as preservation of, and visitation to historical parks and other cultural sites. The state entities which have been created emphasize the role of history education and tourism in their commemorations in varying degrees.

Kentucky

The Kentucky American Independence Semiquincentennial Commission was created through executive order. The commission is attached to the governor's office and serves as an advisory body to the Governor and the Secretary of Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet.

The commission consists of nine members:

- The Secretary of State
- The President of the Senate
- The Speaker of the House
- The Chair of the Historic Properties Commission
- The Chair of the Heritage Council
- The Secretary of Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet
- Three members appointed by the Governor

The Chair of the Commission is appointed by the Governor.

Michigan

The governor has tasked the Michigan History Center and the Historical Society of Michigan to prepare that state's commemoration of the 250th anniversary.

New Jersey

Enacted legislation in New Jersey directs the existing New Jersey Historical Commission to create a program to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States.

The legislation calls for the commission to enter into a contract with a [non-profit] private entity...to coordinate and plan the programs and observances of the State's semiquincentennial celebration" and calls for the establishment of an "advisory council" to support and guide the work of this public-private partnership, in part through fundraising assistance and promoting collaboration with state agencies.

New Jersey's bill also provides a \$500,000 annual appropriation to support semiquincentennial programs and staffing through June 30, 2028, \$200,000 of which is earmarked for the New Jersey Historical Commission, with the remaining \$300,000 to go to the state's selected non-profit partner.

North Carolina

The North Carolina USA 250th Committee was created through executive action. The committee is led by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and includes representatives from several public and private organizations.

Representatives from the following organizations are members of the committee:

- State chapters of the Society of Cincinnati, Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Colonial Dames
- The North Carolina Museums Council and Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies
- Reenactor organizations
- The Division of State Historic Sites, the Division of State History Museums, and Tryon Palace
- The Historic Preservation Office, the Office of State Archaeology, and the Office of Historical Research and Publications
- Old Salem, Historic Bethania, Historic Murfreesboro, Historic Edenton, and Historic Hillsborough, and the Friends of the Moore's Creek Battlefield
- The land preservation community
- The North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs and the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission
- The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
- The Department of Public Instruction
- The State Library; and
- The National Park Service
- The North Carolina Humanities Council

Pennsylvania

Legislation in Pennsylvania created a new entity entitled the *Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial*.

The legislation directs the new commission “to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania’s integral role in that event and the impact of its people on the nation’s past, present and future.”

Pennsylvania’s legislation specifies the size of its commission and who shall have authority to appoint commission members. The governor and certain legislative leaders have the power to make a specified number of appointments. The commission is to be comprised primarily of private citizens, along with several legislators, and ex-officio members primarily representing executive branch agencies.

The chairperson of the commission may hire staff for the commission.

The commission “may accept, use and dispose of gifts and donations of money, property or personal services... procure supplies, services and property...make contracts” and “expend...funds donated or received.”

South Carolina

Legislation in South Carolina created a new entity entitled the *South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission*.

It vests in the commission the authority to “plan and execute...a proper observance of the Sestercentennial of the American Revolution in South Carolina, and in cooperation with the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust; a national organization, if any; and other similar commemorative organizations in other states.”

South Carolina’s legislation specifies the size of its commission and who shall have authority to appoint commission members. The governor and certain legislative leaders have the power to make a specified number of appointments. The commission is to be comprised of the Governor of South Carolina, the Chairman of the South Carolina Archives and History Commission, the Director of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and individuals appointed by the governor and state legislative leaders.

The staff of the commission consists of the staffs of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History as well as other individuals hired by the commission.

Funding for the commission shall be determined and provided by the South Carolina General Assembly.

Tennessee

Legislation in Tennessee created a new entity entitled the *Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission*.

The legislation directs the commission to “plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, and recognize Tennessee's integral role in that event and the impact of its people on the nation's past, present, and future.”

Tennessee’s legislation specifies the size of its commission and that it would consist of ex-officio members consisting of legislators, state officials, the president of the Tennessee Sons of the Revolution, and the state regent of the Tennessee Society, Daughters of the American Revolution.

The commission “may accept, use, and dispose of gifts and donations of money, property, or personal services... procure supplies, services, and property” and “expend...funds donated or received in pursuance of contracts.”

Virginia

Legislation in Virginia created a new entity entitled the *American Revolution 250 Commission* as an advisory body in the executive branch.

The legislation directs the new commission “formulate and implement a program for the inclusive observance of the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States and the Revolutionary War in Virginia.”

Virginia’s legislation specifies the size of its commission at 22 members consisting of 17 citizens and five ex officio representatives. The governor has the authority to appoint 12 members derived from a list provided by two state history organizations, four history organizations designate one member each, the American Battlefield Trust designates one member, and the Virginia Bar Association designates one member.

The commission is required to create an advisory council, led by a commission member, composed of citizen members who have a knowledge of relevant history or expertise.

A chairman and vice chairman of the commission will be elected by the commission’s membership.

The commission “solicit, accept, use, and dispose of funds appropriated by the General Assembly and any gifts, grants, donations, bequests, or other funds received by the Commission for the purpose of aiding or facilitating its work.”

Contact: Shawn McBurney, smcburney@america250.org, (202) 478-3883

Chairman Kasper and members of the Committee:

I am Sandy Sidler, the North Dakota State Regent of the North Dakota State Society Daughters of the American Revolution. The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a service group of women who can trace their ancestor to service and support during the American Revolution. Personally I have several ancestors who either fought the British, provided supplies or signed an oath of allegiance to the new country.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was founded in 1890 and has welcomed over 1 million members since then with there being over 185,000 members currently. The North Dakota Society was founded over 100 years ago and currently has over 200 members. One of whom is a member of the House Legislature. There are five chapters in North Dakota; Fargo, Bismarck, Grand Forks, Minot and Devils Lake.

The U.S. Congress has established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission to plan for 2026. Their vision is "To engage all Americans in what will be the largest and most inclusive celebration and commemoration in our nation's history." To achieve this the commission has developed 3 themes: To Educate, to engage, and to Unite. More information and a list of participating members and organizations can be found on their website www.America250.org

I'd like to clarify a couple of details included in the bill. Item 4.c. Refers to a replica of the Liberty Bell. According to the State Historical Society in 1950 replicas of the Liberty Bell were gifted to each state. North Dakota's bell toured the state on a flatbed truck and then was displayed in the State Capitol from 1952-1982. It was later displayed at Century High School in Bismarck from 2001-2015. Currently it is in a storage facility. Item 4.d.refers to a DAR America 250 Patriots Marker. The DAR has set a goal of placing at least one marker in every state in advance of the nation's 250th anniversary.

The commission would investigate a location to display these 2 items.

The 250th anniversary of the United States of America is a great Commemorative Event.

House Bill 1285 has been introduced by Representatives Boschee, P.Anderson,Dobervich, Kasper and M. Rudy. This bill will be relating to a new commission to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of The United States of America. We encourage the passage of House Bill 1285.

I welcome any questions.

Chairman Kasper and members of the Committee:

I am Kirstin Carlson, the America250! North Dakota Chairperson for the Daughters of the America Revolution (DAR). The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a service group of women who can trace their ancestor to service in the American Revolution.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was founded in 1890 and has welcomed over 1 million members since then with over 185,000 members currently. Today, the DAR is service group of women strongly committed to promoting American patriotism, preserving American history and securing American's future through better education. The North Dakota Society was founded over 100 years ago and currently has over 200 members. There are five chapters in North Dakota; Fargo, Bismarck, Grand Forks, Minot and Devils Lake. I have witnessed firsthand, and been inspired by the generosity, dedication and commitment our North Dakota DAR women who volunteer for the veterans of North Dakota, work to preserve, educate and promote our state and national history as well as represent North Dakota at a National level. I am often left feeling humbled to be associated with this group by the amazing work they do for the love of America and this state.

In 2016, the U.S. Congress established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission to plan for the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. Eight members of congress, 16 private citizen and 9 federal officials including the Secretary of State, Librarian of Congress and Archivist of the United States comprise the committee roster. Our DAR Honorary President General Lynn Forney Young has been appointed a seat on this national commission. The Daughters of the American Revolution is honored to be represented on this prestigious Commission with a mission so closely aligned with the National Society's founding principles. Their vision is "To engage all Americans in what will be the largest and most inclusive celebration and commemoration in our nation's history." To achieve this, the commission has developed 3 themes: To Educate, to engage, and to Unite. More information and a list of participating members and organizations can be found on their website www.America250.org In keeping with this national representation, if HB 1285 bill is passed, I encourage you to consider having a North Dakota DAR member part of the state committee.

The 250th anniversary of the United States of America is a great Commemorative Event and North Dakota will want to mark this anniversary. As a band educator with Fargo Public Schools, I am excited that North Dakota could potentially lay a path to create memorable events and lasting tributes in the form of special events, education, commissions of music, artwork, etc. to this historic celebration!

House Bill 1285 has been introduced by Representatives Boschee, P.Anderson,Dobervich, Kasper and M. Rudy. This bill will be relating to a new commission to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of The United States of America. We encourage the passage of House Bill 1285.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirstin Carlson

**TESTIMONY ON HB1285
GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MARY J. SOUCIE
NORTH DAKOTA STATE LIBRARIAN
msoucie@nd.gov
(701)328-4654**

Dear Chairman Kasper & Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Mary Soucie, State Librarian of North Dakota, and I am giving testimony in support of HB1285 creating a commission relating to the two-hundred-fifty years since the founding of America. The State Library is one of the organizations that will appoint a representative to the commission. We support the creating of the commission. We have had a very brief conversation with the North Dakota State Historical Society who will lead the commission and look forward to partnering with the Historical Society, the Department of Public Instruction, the North Dakota Library Community and other organizations to commemorate this milestone. Thank you for your time and for accepting my written testimony. I am happy to answer any questions that the committee may have.



NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Senator Richard Marcellais

District 9
301 Laite Loop NE
Belcourt, ND 58316-3877

R: 701-477-8985
B: 701-477-8985
C: 701-278-0632
F: 701-477-8985
rmarcellais@nd.gov

COMMITTEES:

Education
Government and Veterans Affairs

HB 1285 Testimony
House Government Veterans Affairs
January 22, 2021 @ 8:30 am
Pioneer Room

Good morning Chairman Kasper members of the House Government Veterans Affairs Committee for the record my name is Senator Richard Marcellais, District 9, Rolette County.

I appear before you this morning in favor of HB 1285 relating to commission for the commemoration of the two hundred fifty years since America's founding; and provide a continuing appropriation.

I will try and answer any questions.

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1285 AM
1/29/2021

A Bill relating to a commission for the commemoration of the two hundred fifty years since America's founding; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

Chairman Kasper opened the committee work meeting at 10:27 a.m.

Roll Call

Representatives	Attendance
Representative Jim Kasper	P
Representative Ben Koppelman	P
Representative Pamela Anderson	P
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	P
Representative Karen Karls	P
Representative Scott Louser	P
Representative Jeffery J. Magrum	P
Representative Mitch Ostlie	P
Representative Karen M. Rohr	P
Representative Austen Schauer	P
Representative Mary Schneider	P
Representative Vicky Steiner	P
Representative Greg Stemen	P
Representative Steve Vetter	P

Discussion Topics:

- ND DAR
- North Dakota heritage
- Fundraising
- Duties of commission
- Liberty bell replica

Rep. Rohr motion Do Pass.

Rep. Schauer second

Rep. Rohr withdrew motion

Rep. Schauer. withdrew second

Rep. P. Anderson motioned Do Pass re-refer to Appropriations.

Representative Schauer seconded.

Roll Call vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Pamela Anderson	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	N
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Jeffery J. Magrum	N
Representative Mitch Ostlie	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	N
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	N
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	N

The motion passed 9-5-0. Motion carried.

Rep. P. Anderson is the carrier.

Chairman Kasper closed the hearing at 10.41.

Carmen Hart, Committee Clerk by Anna Fiest

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1285: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (9 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1285 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

2021 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1285

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1285
2/9/2021

Relating to a commission for the commemoration of the two hundred fifty years since America's founding; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

3:18 Chairman Delzer opened the hearing for HB 1285

Representatives	P/A
Representative Jeff Delzer	P
Representative Keith Kempenich	P
Representative Bert Anderson	P
Representative Larry Bellew	P
Representative Tracy Boe	P
Representative Mike Brandenburg	P
Representative Michael Howe	P
Representative Gary Kreidt	P
Representative Bob Martinson	P
Representative Lisa Meier	P
Representative Alisa Mitskog	P
Representative Corey Mock	P
Representative David Monson	P
Representative Mike Nathe	P
Representative Jon O. Nelson	P
Representative Mark Sanford	P
Representative Mike Schatz	P
Representative Jim Schmidt	P
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	P
Representative Michelle Strinden	P
Representative Don Vigesaa	P

Discussion Topics:

- Consideration of Americas 250 Year Celebration

3:18 Representative Kasper- Introduces the bill and testifies in favor of HB 1285

Additional written testimony: No Written Testimony

3:21 Chairman Delzer closed the meeting for HB 1285

Risa Berube, House Appropriations Committee Clerk

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1285
2/16/2021

Relating to a commission for the commemoration of the two hundred fifty years since America's founding; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

11:13 Chairman Delzer- Opens the meeting for HB 1285

Representatives	P/A
Representative Jeff Delzer	P
Representative Keith Kempenich	P
Representative Bert Anderson	P
Representative Larry Bellew	P
Representative Tracy Boe	P
Representative Mike Brandenburg	P
Representative Michael Howe	P
Representative Gary Kreidt	P
Representative Bob Martinson	P
Representative Lisa Meier	P
Representative Alisa Mitskog	P
Representative Corey Mock	P
Representative David Monson	P
Representative Mike Nathe	P
Representative Jon O. Nelson	P
Representative Mark Sanford	P
Representative Mike Schatz	P
Representative Jim Schmidt	P
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	P
Representative Michelle Strinden	P
Representative Don Vigesaa	P

Discussion Topics:

- Consideration of America's 250 Year Celebration

11:13 Chairman Delzer- Reviews the bill and voices concerns

11:17 Representative Monson Amend and remove Lines 29-30 and page 3

Representative Boe Second

11:18 Voice Vote- Motion Carries

Further discussion

11:20 Representative Kreidt- Remove lines 2-5 from page 2 of the bill

Representative Kempenich- Second

Further discussion

11:22 Voice Vote- Motion Carries

11:24 Representative Monson- Motion for a Do Pass as Amended

Representative Mock- Second

11:25 Roll Call Vote was taken;

Representatives	Vote
Representative Jeff Delzer	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	Y
Representative Tracy Boe	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Michael Howe	N
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y
Representative Jim Schmidt	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	N
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Don Vigasaa	Y

Motion Carries 19-2-0 Representative Monson will carry the

bill Additional written testimony: No Written Testimony

11: 27 Chairman Delzer – Closes the meeting for HB 1285

Risa Berube,

House Appropriations Committee Clerk

De 2/17/21
/uf1

21.0657.04001
Title.05000

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
the House Appropriations Committee
February 16, 2021

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1285

- Page 1, line 24, after the underscored semicolon insert "and"
- Page 2, line 1, remove the underscored semicolon
- Page 2, remove lines 2 through 4
- Page 2, line 5, remove "q. Minority party of the house of representatives"
- Page 2, line 27, after the underscored semicolon insert "and"
- Page 2, line 28, remove the underscored semicolon
- Page 2, remove lines 29 and 30
- Page 3, remove lines 1 through 3
- Page 3, line 4, remove "organizations; corporate entities; and individuals"
- Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1285: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (19 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1285 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 24, after the underscored semicolon insert "and"

Page 2, line 1, remove the underscored semicolon

Page 2, remove lines 2 through 4

Page 2, line 5, remove "q. Minority party of the house of representatives"

Page 2, line 27, after the underscored semicolon insert "and"

Page 2, line 28, remove the underscored semicolon

Page 2, remove lines 29 and 30

Page 3, remove lines 1 through 3

Page 3, line 4, remove "organizations; corporate entities; and individuals"

Renumber accordingly

2021 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1285

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1285
3/12/2021

Relating to a commission for the commemoration of the two hundred fifty years since America's founding; provide a continuing appropriation.

Chair Vedaa opened the hearing at 10:39 AM with Sen Vedaa, Meyer, Elkin, K Roers, Weber, Wobbema, and Marcellais present.

Discussion Topics:

- Fundraising
- Commission establishment

Rep Josh Boschee - Dist 44 - introduced the bill - #8919

Richard Marcellais – Dist 9 – testified in favor - #8626

Additional written testimony:

Sandy Sidler – in favor #8866

Mary Soucie - in favor #8526

Adjourned at 10:45 AM

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk



North Dakota House of Representatives

State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0360

Representative

Josh Boschee
District 44
517 First Street North
Fargo, ND 58102-4540

C: 701-367-3513
jboschee@nd.gov

Minority Leader

#8919

March 12, 2020

HB 1285 Testimony Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Good morning Chair Vedaa and members of the GVA Committee.

HB 1285 is enacting legislation to create a North Dakota specific America 250 Commission, to commemorate the 250 years since America's founding. Congress established a national America 250 Commission in 2026, who briefed former Vice President Pence of their work last January.

Attached is a letter I, and other legislative leaders received in early March of 2020 encouraging North Dakota to plan our own events for our nation's 250th anniversary in 2026. In all honestly, I didn't pay much attention to the letter as we were just starting to aggressively address issues related to COVID-19 in state. Fortunately, a north Fargo neighbor of mine, Sandy Sidler, serves as a regent for the ND State Society Daughters of the American Revolution and reached out to me this past fall to see if North Dakota could get a Commission started. You will hear from her shortly and have likely received written testimony from her and other members of the organization which has chapters throughout North Dakota.

While there are still five years until our nation's 250th anniversary, enacting a Commission in the coming biennium will allow the Commission to begin the early work of laying the foundation for how cities, townships, school districts, Veterans groups, businesses and nonprofits throughout the state can be a part of a much more in depth planning during the 2023-25 biennium to implement at least a year's worth of commemoration between July 2025 and July 2026. Additionally, in order to receive major regional or national exhibits, galleries and museums may need to reserve such exhibits three to five years from when they plan to have them displayed.

As you see in section 1 of the bill, a comprehensive list of state agencies, relevant statewide nonprofits and representatives from our Congressional delegation are being invited to provide leadership on the Commission to ensure it is as comprehensive as possible. The House Appropriations committee did remove a representative from each legislative caucus. In consultation with the state historical society, several of these entities were a part of the planning of our state's 125th Anniversary leading up to 2014 celebration.

Section 2 provides the powers and duties of the Commission. Subsection 2 of Section 2 allows the Commission to fundraise and receive funds from various entities to diversity funding sources. It is anticipated that the national America 250 Commission may have

resources from Congress to help support state efforts, which is why it is important to have representatives from our Congressional delegation offices as part of the Commission. Additionally, funds from private foundations, nonprofits, individuals, corporations and government entities may help offset any local match requirements. The attached fiscal note, prepared by the state historical society, requests \$25,000 in General Fund spending to begin the Commission's work over the next biennium. Without a fundraising or development plan in place, for the purposes of the fiscal note, \$500,000 in General Fund spending, is identified to receive an equal amount from Congress. As the development plan and more details are provided by the national America 250 Commission, the state Commission will be able to provide a more accurate request for the 23-25 biennium inclusive of expected non-General Fund dollars to offset General Fund impact.

Subsection 4 of Section 2 lays out some of the overarching duties of the Commission. The bill is drafted with a few specifics including identifying locations in the state for temporary displaying the, very heavy, replica of the Liberty Bell throughout the year, that the State Historical Society has in its collection.

Attached to my testimony, are examples of how other states have already enacted their initial plans for their state's America 250 Commission.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, the creation of a North Dakota specific America 250 Commission will allow us to tell the story of North Dakota over the past 250 years, which of course includes over a century before statehood. As our nation prepares to celebrate 250 years of democracy, we will be able to make significant contributions to those discussions in every corner of the state. School districts may have bolstered civics and history curriculum, communities may have one time or ongoing discussion of what being an American means to them, traveling exhibits may meander throughout the state to provide more North Dakotans an opportunity to learn and reflect and most importantly, we, as a state will be able to collectively reaffirm our commitment to democracy, civil discourse and the opportunity for freedom for all.

I appreciate the committee's consideration of this legislation and hope that you can assist in developing a solution.

Before I take questions, Mr. Chairman, I ask for the committee to make two drafting corrections to the bill. Page, lines 8 and 9, should read "America" rather than "American", to align with the rest of the bill. Thank you.

UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL
COMMISSION

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Governor of North Dakota
Office of the Governor
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001

The Honorable David Hogue
Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
P.O. Box 1000
Minot, ND 58702-1000

The Honorable Lawrence Klemm
Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
3929 Valley Drive
Bismarck, ND 58503-1729

The Honorable Joan Heckaman
Office of the Senate Minority Leader
322 Second Avenue North
New Rockford, ND 58356-1712

The Honorable Josh Boschee
Office of the Assembly Minority Leader
517 First Street North
Fargo, ND 58102-4540

Dear North Dakota Leaders:

I have the honor of serving as Chairman of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, which is the official government body established by Congress to prepare an overall program for commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

The Commission is charged with planning and coordinating observances and activities associated with the 250th anniversary throughout the country. The Commission will be at the center of a network of federal, state, territorial, and local entities working together to make the 250th a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all Americans.

After a comprehensive 16-month strategic planning process, we completed our statutory requirement of submitting a Strategic Plan and Report to the President on December 31, 2019. On January 15, 2020, Vice President Pence invited members of the Commission to the White House to present an overview of our work along with a copy of the report.

This initiative, which will be referred to commonly as ‘America 250’, anticipates nearly 137,000 programs—the vast majority of which will be state- and territory-led initiatives resulting in billions of dollars in resources that will ripple through our local, state, territorial, and national economies. America 250 is organizing itself to support those state and territorial efforts.

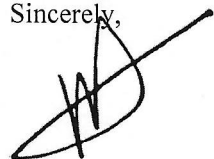
State- and territorial-level involvement is the Commission’s top priority. Several states have created Semiquincentennial entities to administer and organize their 250th programming. We strongly encourage you to establish an entity so that we can begin to work with you in commemorating the 250th. We stand ready to provide our advice and support.

As referenced in the enabling legislation, I look forward to working with you to discuss America 250 and how we can coordinate in engaging nearly 350,000,000 of our fellow Americans in the largest event in our history.

Please contact me or Frank Giordano, Executive Director of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, at fgiordano@america250.gov or 202-871-1776 to schedule a time when we can meet.

I look forward to working with you and your state on this historic undertaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan DiLella', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dan DiLella
Chairman, U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission
ddilella@america250.gov

AMERICA250

U.S. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION
AMERICA 250 FOUNDATION

States' Acts Establishing Entities To Commemorate The 250th Anniversary of American Independence

Eight states have already established entities responsible for administering and organizing their individual commemorations of the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence.

The entities take one of two forms (or a hybrid of the two):

1. Direct an existing executive agency to plan, create, and administer the state's celebrations.
2. Create a new commission to plan, create, and administer the state's celebrations.

Legislation that established entities follows the brief summaries.

The national semiquincentennial commemoration is expected to include elements that increase emphasis on history education, particularly America's founding principles and documents, as well as preservation of, and visitation to historical parks and other cultural sites. The state entities which have been created emphasize the role of history education and tourism in their commemorations in varying degrees.

Kentucky

The Kentucky American Independence Semiquincentennial Commission was created through executive order. The commission is attached to the governor's office and serves as an advisory body to the Governor and the Secretary of Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet.

The commission consists of nine members:

- The Secretary of State
- The President of the Senate
- The Speaker of the House
- The Chair of the Historic Properties Commission
- The Chair of the Heritage Council
- The Secretary of Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet
- Three members appointed by the Governor

The Chair of the Commission is appointed by the Governor.

Maryland

The Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission was created through executive order. The commission is administered by the Maryland Department of Planning and the Governor's Coordinating Offices. It is authorized to enter into a partnership with a tax-exempt organization in its work.

The commission consists of up to 29 members: 16 ex officios; 6 members of the general public appointed by the governor; 2 members appointed by the President of the Maryland Senate; 2 members appointed by the speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, and; up to 3 members of nonprofit organizations.

The Chair of the Commission is appointed by the Governor.

Among other things, the commission is charged with: developing an inclusive commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and all its people through civic, cultural, and historical education, events, and programming; promoting the preservation of cultural and historical resources, and; creating model curriculum about the Revolutionary War period.

Michigan

The governor has tasked the Michigan History Center and the Historical Society of Michigan to prepare that state's commemoration of the 250th anniversary.

New Jersey

Enacted legislation in New Jersey directs the existing New Jersey Historical Commission to create a program to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States.

The legislation calls for the commission to enter into a contract with a [non-profit] private entity...to coordinate and plan the programs and observances of the State's semiquincentennial celebration" and calls for the establishment of an "advisory council" to support and guide the work of this public-private partnership, in part through fundraising assistance and promoting collaboration with state agencies.

New Jersey's bill also provides a \$500,000 annual appropriation to support semiquincentennial programs and staffing through June 30, 2028, \$200,000 of which is earmarked for the New Jersey Historical Commission, with the remaining \$300,000 to go to the state's selected non-profit partner.

North Carolina

The North Carolina USA 250th Committee was created through executive action. The committee is led by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and includes representatives from several public and private organizations.

Representatives from the following organizations are members of the committee:

- State chapters of the Society of Cincinnati, Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Colonial Dames

U.S. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION | AMERICA 250 FOUNDATION

Office: 1800 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 | **Mail:** PO Box 27839, Washington, DC 20038-7839 | **Phone:** (202) 871-1776

- The North Carolina Museums Council and Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies
- Reenactor organizations
- The Division of State Historic Sites, the Division of State History Museums, and Tryon Palace
- The Historic Preservation Office, the Office of State Archaeology, and the Office of Historical Research and Publications
- Old Salem, Historic Bethania, Historic Murfreesboro, Historic Edenton, and Historic Hillsborough, and the Friends of the Moore's Creek Battlefield
- The land preservation community
- The North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs and the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission
- The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
- The Department of Public Instruction
- The State Library; and
- The National Park Service
- The North Carolina Humanities Council

Pennsylvania

Legislation in Pennsylvania created a new entity entitled the *Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial*.

The legislation directs the new commission “to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania’s integral role in that event and the impact of its people on the nation’s past, present and future.”

Pennsylvania’s legislation specifies the size of its commission and who shall have authority to appoint commission members. The governor and certain legislative leaders have the power to make a specified number of appointments. The commission is to be comprised primarily of private citizens, along with several legislators, and ex-officio members primarily representing executive branch agencies.

The chairperson of the commission may hire staff for the commission.

The commission “may accept, use and dispose of gifts and donations of money, property or personal services... procure supplies, services and property...make contracts” and “expend...funds donated or received.”

South Carolina

Legislation in South Carolina created a new entity entitled the *South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission*.

It vests in the commission the authority to “plan and execute...a proper observance of the Sestercentennial of the American Revolution in South Carolina, and in cooperation with the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust; a national organization, if any; and other similar commemorative organizations in other states.”

U.S. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION | AMERICA 250 FOUNDATION

Office: 1800 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 | **Mail:** PO Box 27839, Washington, DC 20038-7839 | **Phone:** (202) 871-1776

South Carolina's legislation specifies the size of its commission and who shall have authority to appoint commission members. The governor and certain legislative leaders have the power to make a specified number of appointments. The commission is to be comprised of the Governor of South Carolina, the Chairman of the South Carolina Archives and History Commission, the Director of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and individuals appointed by the governor and state legislative leaders.

The staff of the commission consists of the staffs of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History as well as other individuals hired by the commission.

Funding for the commission shall be determined and provided by the South Carolina General Assembly.

Tennessee

Legislation in Tennessee created a new entity entitled the *Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission*.

The legislation directs the commission to “plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, and recognize Tennessee's integral role in that event and the impact of its people on the nation's past, present, and future.”

Tennessee's legislation specifies the size of its commission and that it would consist of ex-officio members consisting of legislators, state officials, the president of the Tennessee Sons of the Revolution, and the state regent of the Tennessee Society, Daughters of the American Revolution.

The commission “may accept, use, and dispose of gifts and donations of money, property, or personal services... procure supplies, services, and property” and “expend...funds donated or received in pursuance of contracts.”

Vermont

The Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission was created by executive order to commemorate “the historic events that preceded and are associated with the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in the State of Vermont, in celebration of our present and in anticipation of the promising future of” Vermont.

The commission is limited to no more than 14 members and include the Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing, the State Historic Preservation Officer, the State Librarian, a representative of the Vermont Historical Society, and a representative from the University of Vermont. In addition, nine members shall be appointed by the Governor including a Revolutionary War historian, a member of a Revolutionary War reenactment group, a representative of the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs, and a representative of a Vermont history museum. The State Historic Preservation Officer serves as the Chair.

U.S. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION | AMERICA 250 FOUNDATION

Office: 1800 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 | **Mail:** PO Box 27839, Washington, DC 20038-7839 | **Phone:** (202) 871-1776

The Commission may designate nonprofit entities to accept private donations and public funds, grants, and donations.

Virginia

Legislation in Virginia created a new entity entitled the *American Revolution 250 Commission* as an advisory body in the executive branch.

The legislation directs the new commission “formulate and implement a program for the inclusive observance of the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States and the Revolutionary War in Virginia.”

Virginia’s legislation specifies the size of its commission at 22 members consisting of 17 citizens and five ex officio representatives. The governor has the authority to appoint 12 members derived from a list provided by two state history organizations, four history organizations designate one member each, the American Battlefield Trust designates one member, and the Virginia Bar Association designates one member.

The commission is required to create an advisory council, led by a commission member, composed of citizen members who have a knowledge of relevant history or expertise.

A chairman and vice chairman of the commission will be elected by the commission’s membership.

The commission “solicit, accept, use, and dispose of funds appropriated by the General Assembly and any gifts, grants, donations, bequests, or other funds received by the Commission for the purpose of aiding or facilitating its work.”

Contact: Shawn McBurney, smcburney@america250.org, (202) 478-3883

U.S. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION | AMERICA 250 FOUNDATION

Office: 1800 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 | **Mail:** PO Box 27839, Washington, DC 20038-7839 | **Phone:** (202) 871-1776



NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360

#8626



Senator Richard Marcellais

District 9
301 Laite Loop NE
Belcourt, ND 58316-3877

R: 701-477-8985
B: 701-477-8985
C: 701-278-0632
F: 701-477-8985
rmarcellais@nd.gov

COMMITTEES:
Education
Government and Veterans Affairs

HB 1285 Testimony
Senate Government Veterans Affairs
March 12, 2021 @ 10:30 am
Room 216E

Good morning Chairman Vedaa members of the Senate Government Veterans Affairs Committee for the record my name is Senator Richard Marcellais, District 9, Rolette County.

Good morning I am in favor of HB 1285 relating to commission for the commemoration of the two hundred fifty years since America's founding; and provide a continuing appropriation.

I urge a do pass on House Bill 1285.

Chairman Vedaa and members of the committee:

My name is Sandy Sidler and I am the North Dakota State Regent of the North Dakota State Society Daughters of the American Revolution. I am writing in support of House Bill 1285. The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a service organization of women who can trace their ancestor to service and support during the American Revolution. Personally I have several ancestors who either fought the British, provided supplies or signed an oath of allegiance to the new country. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was founded in 1890 and has welcomed over 1 million members since then with there being over 185,000 members currently. The North Dakota Society was founded over 100 years ago and currently has over 200 members, one of whom is a member of the House Legislature. There are five chapters in North Dakota; Fargo, Bismarck, Grand Forks, Minot and Devils Lake.

The U.S. Congress has established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission to plan for the 250th anniversary in 2026. Their vision is "To engage all Americans in what will be the largest and most inclusive celebration and commemoration in our Nation's history." To achieve this the commission has developed 3 themes: To Educate, To Engage, and To Unite. Currently 11 states have joined the America 250 commission. More states are working on developing commissions. More information and a list of participating members and organizations can be found on their website www.America250.org

I would like to clarify a couple of details included in the bill. Item 4.c. Refers to a replica of the Liberty Bell. According to the State Historical Society in 1950 replicas of the Liberty Bell were gifted to each state. North Dakota's bell toured the state on a flatbed truck and then was displayed in the State Capitol from 1952-1982. It was later displayed at Century High School in Bismarck from 2001-2015. Currently it is in a storage facility. Item 4.d. (which was struck from the original bill) referred to a DAR America 250 Patriots Marker. The DAR has set a goal of placing at least one marker in every state in advance of the Nation's 250th anniversary.

This commission would investigate a location to display these two items. The 250th anniversary of the United States of America is a great Commemorative Event.

Senators Dever, Marsellais and Oban have introduced this bill. We encourage the passage of House Bill 1285.

**TESTIMONY ON HB1285
GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MARY J. SOUCIE
NORTH DAKOTA STATE LIBRARIAN
msoucie@nd.gov
(701)328-4654**

Dear Chairman Vedaa & Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Mary Soucie, State Librarian of North Dakota, and I am giving testimony in support of HB1285 creating a commission relating to the two-hundred-fifty years since the founding of America. The State Library is one of the organizations that will appoint a representative to the commission. We support the creating of the commission. We have had a very brief conversation with the North Dakota State Historical Society who will lead the commission and look forward to partnering with the Historical Society, the Department of Public Instruction, the North Dakota Library Community and other organizations to commemorate this milestone. Thank you for your time and for accepting my written testimony. I am happy to answer any questions that the committee may have.

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1285
3/18/2021

Relating to a commission for the commemoration of the 250 years since America's founding; provide a continuing appropriation.

Chair Vedaa called to order at 11:25 AM with Sen Vedaa, Meyer, Elkin, K Roers, Weber, Wobbema, and Marcellais present.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Work
- Amendment to say "America"

Sen Marcellais moved amendment 21.0657.05001

Sen Wobbema seconded

Voice Vote Taken and Motion Passed

Sen Marcellais moved a **Do Pass as Amended**

Sen Meyer seconded

Roll Call Vote: 7 -- YES 0 -- NO -0-ab Motion Passed

Senators	Vote
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jay R. Elkin	Y
Senator Richard Marcellais	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Mark F. Webber	Y
Senator Michael A. Wobbema	Y

Sen Marcellais will carry the bill

Adjourned at 11:27 AM

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

21.0657.05001
Title.06000

Adopted by the Senate Government and
Veterans Affairs Committee
March 18, 2021

CD
3/18
1041

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1285

Page 2, line 8, replace "American" with "America"

Page 2, line 9, replace "American" with "America"

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1285, as engrossed: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Vedaa, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1285 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 2, line 8, replace "American" with "America"

Page 2, line 9, replace "American" with "America"

Renumber accordingly

2021 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1285

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1285
4/1/2021
Senate Appropriations Committee

Relating to a commission for the commemoration of the two hundred fifty years since America's founding.

Senator Holmberg opened the hearing at 8:29 AM.

Senators present: **Holmberg, Krebsbach, Wanzek, Bekkedahl, Poolman, Erbele, Dever, Oehlke, Rust, Davison, Hogue, Sorvaag, Mathern, and Heckaman.**

Discussion Topics:

- 100 million trees – Centennial Tree Planting Project
- Appropriation authority
- Brass belt buckle – Memorabilia and fund raiser
- Patriotism/Importance of celebrations
- Committee participants

Representative Joshua Boschee, District 44, Bill Sponsor – testified in favor and submitted testimony #11236.

Senator Mathern moved **Do Pass** on **HB 1285**.

Senator Krebsbach second.

Senators		Senators	
Senator Holmberg	Y	Senator Hogue	Y
Senator Krebsbach	Y	Senator Oehlke	Y
Senator Wanzek	Y	Senator Poolman	Y
Senator Bekkedahl	Y	Senator Rust	Y
Senator Davison	Y	Senator Sorvaag	Y
Senator Dever	Y	Senator Heckaman	Y
Senator Erbele	Y	Senator Mathern	Y

Roll Call vote – 14-0-0. Motion passed.

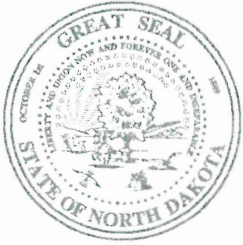
Additional written testimony: #10841, #11212.

Senator Holmberg closed the hearing at 8:50 AM.

Rose Laning, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1285, as engrossed and amended: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1285, as amended, was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.



North Dakota
House of
Representatives

State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0360

Representative
Josh Boschee
District 44
517 First Street North
Fargo, ND 58102-4540
C: 701-367-3513
jboschee@nd.gov
Minority Leader

11236

April 1, 2021

HB 1285 Testimony
Senate Appropriations Committee

Good morning Chair Holmberg and members of the Appropriations Committee.

HB 1285 is enacting legislation to create a North Dakota specific America 250 Commission, to commemorate the 250 years since America's founding. Five years ago, Congress established a national America 250 Commission, who briefed former Vice President Pence of their work last January.

Attached is a letter I, and other legislative leaders received in early March of 2020 encouraging North Dakota to plan our own events for our nation's 250th anniversary in 2026. In all honestly, I didn't pay much attention to the letter as we were just starting to aggressively address issues related to COVID-19 in state. Fortunately, a north Fargo neighbor of mine, Sandy Sidler, serves as a regent for the ND State Society Daughters of the American Revolution and reached out to me this past fall to see if North Dakota could get a Commission started.

While there are still five years until our nation's 250th anniversary, enacting a Commission in the coming biennium will allow the Commission to begin the early work of laying the foundation for how cities, townships, school districts, Veterans groups, businesses and nonprofits throughout the state can be a part of a much more in depth planning during the 2023-25 biennium to implement at least a year's worth of commemoration between July 2025 and July 2026. Additionally, to receive major regional or national exhibits, galleries and museums may need to reserve such exhibits three to five years from when they plan to have them displayed.

As you see in section 1 of the bill, a comprehensive list of state agencies, relevant statewide nonprofits and representatives from our Congressional delegation are being invited to provide leadership on the Commission to ensure it is as comprehensive as possible. The House Appropriations committee did remove a representative from each legislative caucus. In consultation with the state historical society, several of these entities were a part of the planning of our state's 125th Anniversary leading up to 2014 celebration.

Subsection 2 of Section 2 allows the Commission to fundraise and receive funds from various entities to diversity funding sources. It is anticipated that the national America 250 Commission may have resources from Congress to help support state efforts, which is why it is important to have representatives from our Congressional delegation offices as part of the Commission. Additionally, funds from private

foundations, nonprofits, individuals, corporations, and government entities may help offset any local match requirements. The attached fiscal note, prepared by the state historical society, identifies \$25,000 in General Fund spending to begin the Commission's work over the next biennium. Mr. Chair and members of the Committee, as the subcommittee continues to work on the Historical Societies' budget bill, HB 1018, I request that you add \$25,000 to their operating budget to cover this so it does not become an unfunded mandate to the agency.

Without a fundraising or development plan in place, for the purposes of the fiscal note, \$500,000 in General Fund spending for next biennium is projected to receive an equal amount from Congress. As the development plan and more details are provided by the national America 250 Commission, the state Commission will be able to provide a more accurate request for the 23-25 biennium inclusive of expected non-General Fund dollars to offset General Fund impact.

Attached to my testimony, are examples of how other states have already enacted their initial plans for their state's America 250 Commission.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, the creation of a North Dakota specific America 250 Commission will allow us to tell the story of North Dakota over the past 250 years, which of course includes over a century before statehood. As our nation prepares to celebrate 250 years of democracy, we will be able to make significant contributions to those discussions in every corner of the state. School districts may bolster civics and history curriculum, communities may have one time or ongoing discussion of what being an American means to them, traveling exhibits may meander throughout the state to provide more North Dakotans an opportunity to learn and reflect and most importantly, we, as a state will be able to collectively reaffirm our commitment to democracy, civil discourse and the opportunity for freedom for all.

I appreciate the committee's consideration of this legislation and hope that you can assist in developing a solution.

UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL
COMMISSION

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Governor of North Dakota
Office of the Governor
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001

The Honorable David Hogue
Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
P.O. Box 1000
Minot, ND 58702-1000

The Honorable Lawrence Klemm
Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
3929 Valley Drive
Bismarck, ND 58503-1729

The Honorable Joan Heckaman
Office of the Senate Minority Leader
322 Second Avenue North
New Rockford, ND 58356-1712

The Honorable Josh Boschee
Office of the Assembly Minority Leader
517 First Street North
Fargo, ND 58102-4540

Dear North Dakota Leaders:

I have the honor of serving as Chairman of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, which is the official government body established by Congress to prepare an overall program for commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

The Commission is charged with planning and coordinating observances and activities associated with the 250th anniversary throughout the country. The Commission will be at the center of a network of federal, state, territorial, and local entities working together to make the 250th a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all Americans.

After a comprehensive 16-month strategic planning process, we completed our statutory requirement of submitting a Strategic Plan and Report to the President on December 31, 2019. On January 15, 2020, Vice President Pence invited members of the Commission to the White House to present an overview of our work along with a copy of the report.

This initiative, which will be referred to commonly as ‘America 250’, anticipates nearly 137,000 programs—the vast majority of which will be state- and territory-led initiatives resulting in billions of dollars in resources that will ripple through our local, state, territorial, and national economies. America 250 is organizing itself to support those state and territorial efforts.

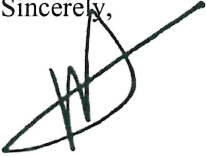
State- and territorial-level involvement is the Commission’s top priority. Several states have created Semiquincentennial entities to administer and organize their 250th programming. We strongly encourage you to establish an entity so that we can begin to work with you in commemorating the 250th. We stand ready to provide our advice and support.

As referenced in the enabling legislation, I look forward to working with you to discuss America 250 and how we can coordinate in engaging nearly 350,000,000 of our fellow Americans in the largest event in our history.

Please contact me or Frank Giordano, Executive Director of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, at fgiordano@america250.gov or 202-871-1776 to schedule a time when we can meet.

I look forward to working with you and your state on this historic undertaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan DiLella', written over a horizontal line.

Dan DiLella
Chairman, U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission
ddilella@america250.gov



July 4, 2026 will mark 250 years since the United States of America declared its independence as a nation. As this momentous anniversary approaches, Americans have an unparalleled opportunity to reflect on our past, to celebrate the rich tapestry of our present, and to advance the promise of our democracy for future generations.

About America 250

Congress established the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to lead the nationwide commemoration of this historic milestone. The America 250 Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit, serves as the operational arm of the Commission, leading its programs, events, and partnerships.

The Commission and the Foundation envision the America 250 commemoration as a monumental, multiyear initiative, engaging each and every American in what we expect to be the largest and most inclusive anniversary observance in our nation's history.

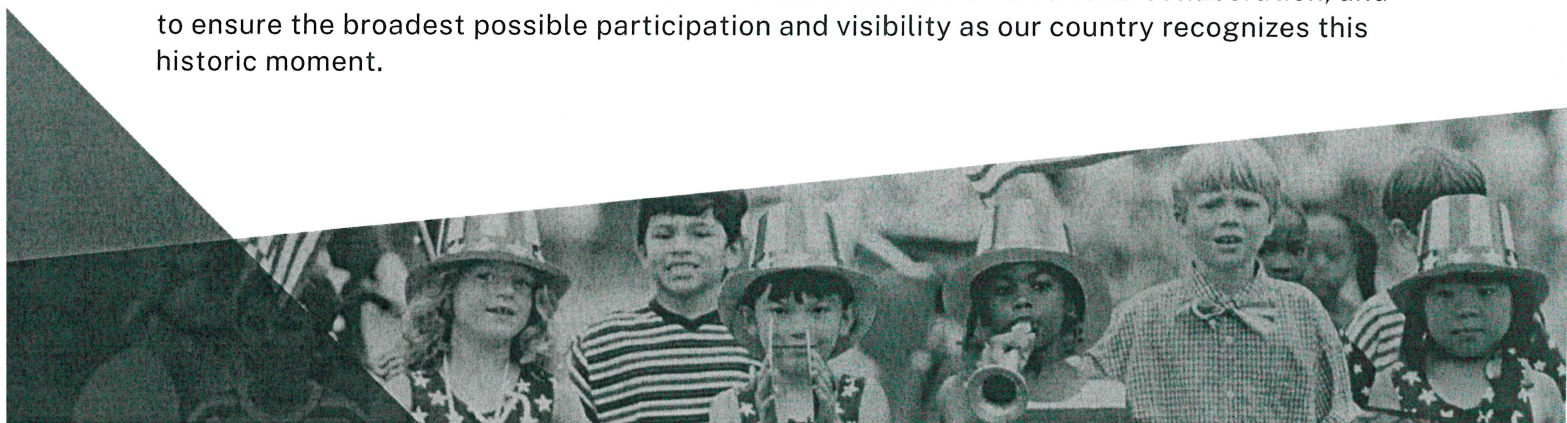
Our Vision

The Commission and Foundation are planning for an America 250 commemorative period that will:

- Take place during the years 2020 through 2027;
- Consider the full scope of American history, from the pre-revolutionary era to today;
- Engage all states, territories, tribes, and communities across the country, as well as millions of friends worldwide;
- Focus on the themes of Educate, Engage, and Unite;
- Include several national signature programs and spark more than 100,000 grassroots programs across the country; and
- Attract billions of dollars in resources to local, state, territorial, and national economies.

Commemorating Nationwide

The Commission and Foundation are encouraging each U.S. state and territory, as well as the District of Columbia, to form its own semiquincentennial commission or state-designated entity to plan for the nation's 250th anniversary. We aim to work closely with each of these state and territorial entities to facilitate coordination and collaboration, and to ensure the broadest possible participation and visibility as our country recognizes this historic moment.





Partnering with States and Territories

Most state and territorial commissions are being created by legislation or executive order. Once your state or territory has formed its commission or official entity, establishing an official partnership with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission and the America 250 Foundation will provide many benefits and opportunities, including:

- **Participating in a Nationwide Coalition:** The Commission and Foundation will facilitate a coalition of all official state and territorial semiquincentennial entities, allowing states and territories to connect, collaborate, and exchange information.
- **Reinforcing Consistent Themes:** The Commission and Foundation can provide guidance to the state and territorial commissions on how to incorporate the national themes of Educate, Engage, and Unite into state- and territory-based planning. The Commission and Foundation also welcome the opportunity to receive input from each state and territory to ensure the national effort helps to amplify the unique themes selected by the states and territories.
- **Expanding Visibility and Awareness:** The Commission and Foundation look forward to using our national platform to promote activities in the states and territories through press, social media, e-newsletters, website content, partner programs, and more.
- **Co-Branding Efforts:** The Commission and Foundation will create official "America 250" logos tailored to each state and territory that we can offer to each official state and territorial semiquincentennial entity.
- **Enhancing Fundraising:** The Commission and Foundation aim to enhance states' and territories' semiquincentennial fundraising efforts through co-branding.
- **Partnering on National Signature Programs:** The Commission and Foundation will coordinate national signature programs to be conducted across the U.S. throughout the commemorative period, and each state and territorial commission will have the chance to co-sponsor any national signature programs within its state or territory.
- **Increasing Economic Development:** The Commission and Foundation expect that states' and territories' partnership with the national commemoration effort will increase tourism and economic development opportunities in each state and territory.

The U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission and the America 250 Foundation stand ready to partner with your state or territory to achieve our shared goals over the next several years. We look forward to working with you to honor your state's or territory's unique story and contributions during this once-in-a-lifetime observance. For more information and to discuss partnership opportunities, please email us at states@america250.org.



March 9, 2021



AMERICA 250 FOUNDATION

**States' Acts Establishing Entities To Commemorate
The 250th Anniversary of American Independence**

Eleven states have already established entities responsible for administering and organizing their individual commemorations of the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding with several others in the process of doing so.

The entities take one of two forms (or a hybrid of the two):

1. Direct an existing executive agency to plan, create, and administer the state's celebrations.
2. Create a new commission to plan, create, and administer the state's celebrations.

Legislation and executive language that established entities follows the brief summaries.

The national semiquincentennial commemoration is expected to include elements that increase emphasis on history education, particularly America's founding principles and documents, as well as preservation of, and visitation to historical parks and other cultural sites. The state entities which have been created emphasize the role of history education and tourism in their commemorations in varying degrees.

Alabama

The Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission. The commission was created through legislation and consists of 11 members including the governor, two members appointed by the governor, two members appointed by the lieutenant governor, four members appointed by the legislature, and two Alabamians serving as members of the US Semiquincentennial Commission. The American Village would be the "celebration capitol."

The commission is charged with promoting awareness and understanding of the principles of the Declaration of Independence, the winning of American independence, and of the establishment of America's system of constitutional self-government. This includes teaching students and increasing public knowledge and appreciation of the breadth of American history, the quest for "liberty and justice for all" including stories and contributions of the various people throughout American history and emphasizing the service and sacrifices of veterans.

Kentucky

The Kentucky American Independence Semiquincentennial Commission was created through executive order. The commission is attached to the governor's office and serves as an advisory body to the Governor and the Secretary of Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet.

The commission consists of nine members:

- The Secretary of State
- The President of the Senate
- The Speaker of the House
- The Chair of the Historic Properties Commission
- The Chair of the Heritage Council
- The Secretary of Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet
- Three members appointed by the Governor

The Chair of the Commission is appointed by the Governor.

Maryland

The Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission was created through executive order. The commission is administered by the Maryland Department of Planning and the Governor's Coordinating Offices. It is authorized to enter into a partnership with a tax-exempt organization in its work.

The commission consists of up to 29 members: 16 ex officios; 6 members of the general public appointed by the governor; 2 members appointed by the President of the Maryland Senate; 2 members appointed by the speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, and; up to 3 members of nonprofit organizations.

The Chair of the Commission is appointed by the Governor.

Among other things, the commission is charged with: developing an inclusive commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and all its people through civic, cultural, and historical education, events, and programming; promoting the preservation of cultural and historical resources, and; creating model curriculum about the Revolutionary War period.

Michigan

The governor has tasked the Michigan History Center and the Historical Society of Michigan to prepare that state's commemoration of the 250th anniversary.

New Jersey

Enacted legislation in New Jersey directs the existing New Jersey Historical Commission to create a program to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States.

The legislation calls for the commission to enter into a contract with a [non-profit] private entity...to coordinate and plan the programs and observances of the State's semiquincentennial celebration" and calls for the establishment of an "advisory council" to support and guide the work of this public-private partnership, in part through fundraising assistance and promoting collaboration with state agencies.

New Jersey's bill also provides a \$500,000 annual appropriation to support semiquincentennial programs and staffing through June 30, 2028, \$200,000 of which is earmarked for the New Jersey Historical Commission, with the remaining \$300,000 to go to the state's selected non-profit partner.

North Carolina

The North Carolina USA 250th Committee was created through executive action. The committee is led by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and includes representatives from several public and private organizations.

Representatives from the following organizations are members of the committee:

- State chapters of the Society of Cincinnati, Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Colonial Dames
- The North Carolina Museums Council and Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies
- Reenactor organizations
- The Division of State Historic Sites, the Division of State History Museums, and Tryon Palace
- The Historic Preservation Office, the Office of State Archaeology, and the Office of Historical Research and Publications
- Old Salem, Historic Bethania, Historic Murfreesboro, Historic Edenton, and Historic Hillsborough, and the Friends of the Moore's Creek Battlefield
- The land preservation community
- The North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs and the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission
- The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
- The Department of Public Instruction
- The State Library; and
- The National Park Service
- The North Carolina Humanities Council

Pennsylvania

Legislation in Pennsylvania created a new entity entitled the *Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial*.

The legislation directs the new commission “to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania’s integral role in that event and the impact of its people on the nation’s past, present and future.”

Pennsylvania’s legislation specifies the size of its commission and who shall have authority to appoint commission members. The governor and certain legislative leaders have the power to make a specified number of appointments. The commission is to be comprised primarily of private citizens, along with several legislators, and ex-officio members primarily representing executive branch agencies.

The chairperson of the commission may hire staff for the commission.

The commission “may accept, use and dispose of gifts and donations of money, property or personal services... procure supplies, services and property...make contracts” and “expend...funds donated or received.”

South Carolina

Legislation in South Carolina created a new entity entitled the *South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission*.

It vests in the commission the authority to “plan and execute...a proper observance of the Sestercentennial of the American Revolution in South Carolina, and in cooperation with the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust; a national organization, if any; and other similar commemorative organizations in other states.”

South Carolina’s legislation specifies the size of its commission and who shall have authority to appoint commission members. The governor and certain legislative leaders have the power to make a specified number of appointments. The commission is to be comprised of the Governor of South Carolina, the Chairman of the South Carolina Archives and History Commission, the Director of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and individuals appointed by the governor and state legislative leaders.

The staff of the commission consists of the staffs of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History as well as other individuals hired by the commission.

Funding for the commission shall be determined and provided by the South Carolina General Assembly.

Tennessee

Legislation in Tennessee created a new entity entitled the *Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission*.

The legislation directs the commission to “plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, and recognize Tennessee's integral role in that event and the impact of its people on the nation's past, present, and future.”

Tennessee’s legislation specifies the size of its commission and that it would consist of ex-officio members consisting of legislators, state officials, the president of the Tennessee Sons of the Revolution, and the state regent of the Tennessee Society, Daughters of the American Revolution.

The commission “may accept, use, and dispose of gifts and donations of money, property, or personal services... procure supplies, services, and property” and “expend...funds donated or received in pursuance of contracts.”

Vermont

The Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission was created by executive order to commemorate “the historic events that preceded and are associated with the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in the State of Vermont, in celebration of our present and in anticipation of the promising future of” Vermont.

The commission is limited to no more than 14 members and include the Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing, the State Historic Preservation Officer, the State Librarian, a representative of the Vermont Historical Society, and a representative from the University of Vermont. In addition, nine members shall be appointed by the Governor including a Revolutionary War historian, a member of a Revolutionary War reenactment group, a representative of the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs, and a representative of a Vermont history museum. The State Historic Preservation Officer serves as the Chair.

The Commission may designate nonprofit entities to accept private donations and public funds, grants, and donations.

Virginia

Legislation in Virginia created a new entity entitled the *American Revolution 250 Commission* as an advisory body in the executive branch.

The legislation directs the new commission “formulate and implement a program for the inclusive observance of the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States and the Revolutionary War in Virginia.”

Virginia’s legislation specifies the size of its commission at 22 members consisting of 17 citizens and five ex officio representatives. The governor has the authority to appoint 12 members derived from a list provided by two state history organizations, four history organizations designate one member each, the American Battlefield Trust designates one member, and the Virginia Bar Association designates one member.

The commission is required to create an advisory council, led by a commission member, composed of citizen members who have a knowledge of relevant history or expertise.

A chairman and vice chairman of the commission will be elected by the commission’s membership.

The commission “solicit, accept, use, and dispose of funds appropriated by the General Assembly and any gifts, grants, donations, bequests, or other funds received by the Commission for the purpose of aiding or facilitating its work.”

Contact: Shawn McBurney, smcburney@america250.org, (202) 478-3883

10841



U.S. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Testimony for:

HB 1285, A Bill to Create An America 250 Commission For North Dakota

Submitted to:

The North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee

April 1, 2021

Submitted by:

Daniel M. DiLella

Chairman

United States Semiquincentennial Commission

For Additional Information Contact:

Kelsey Millay

Director of State Programs

America 250 Foundation

P.O. Box 27840

Washington, DC 20038-7840

kmillay@america250.org

202-478-3884

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Committee –

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding HB 1285, which would create an America 250 Commission in order to plan and coordinate, within the state of North Dakota, the commemoration of 250 years since the United States declared independence.

My name is Dan DiLella. I have the honor of serving as Chairman of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, which was established by Congress to lead the nationwide commemoration of this historic anniversary and to inspire each and every American to participate in our country's greatest milestone yet.

The 250th anniversary of our nation's founding provides an unparalleled opportunity to reflect on the great American Experiment and to Educate, Engage, and Unite Americans throughout the country and our friends around the world. In anticipation of this milestone in 2026, the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission will work with public and private entities across the country with the goal of orchestrating the largest and most inclusive anniversary observance in our nation's history.

This initiative, which will be referred to commonly as "America 250," anticipates nearly 125,000 programs—the vast majority of which will be led by states and territories—resulting in billions of dollars in resources that will ripple through our local, state, territorial, and national economies.

State- and territorial-level involvement is the Commission's top priority, and the Commission plans to work in full partnership with each state's official Semiquincentennial entity in order to support planning efforts across the country. Several states have already created Semiquincentennial entities to administer and organize their America 250 programming, and many others are in the process of doing so. Through those commissions and their programs, states will be highlighting the contributions that they and their citizens have made to American history and culture since America's founding.

The Commission is encouraged to see that the North Dakota legislature is considering HB 1285 to establish its own commission for participation in this once-in-a-lifetime commemoration.

The U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission stands ready to partner with you to achieve our shared goals over the next several years. We look forward to the establishment of North Dakota's commission and to working with you—as we are with other states that have active commissions—to engage North Dakotans and to honor your state's unique story and contributions during this historic moment.

Sincerely,



Daniel M. DiLella
Chairman, U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Committee:

I am Sandy Sidler, the North Dakota State Regent of the North Dakota State Society Daughters of the America Revolution. The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a service group of women who can trace their ancestor to service and support during the American Revolution. Personally I have several ancestors who either fought the British, provided supplies or signed an oath of allegiance to the new country. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was founded in 1890 and has welcomed over 1 million members since then with there being over 185,000 members currently. The North Dakota Society was founded over 100 years ago and currently has over 200 members. One of whom is a member of the House Legislature. There are five chapters in North Dakota; Fargo, Bismarck, Grand Forks, Minot and Devils Lake. The U.S. Congress has established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission to plan for 2026. Their vision is “To engage all Americans in what will be the largest and most inclusive celebration and commemoration in our nation's history.” To achieve this the commission has developed 3 themes: To Educate, to engage, and to Unite. More information and a list of participating members and organizations can be found on their website www.America250.org

I'd like to clarify a detail included in the bill.

Item 4.c. Refers to a replica of the Liberty Bell. According to the State Historical Society in 1950 replicas of the Liberty Bell were gifted to each state. North Dakota's bell toured the state on a flatbed truck and then was displayed in the State Capitol from 1952- 1982. It was later displayed at Century High School in Bismarck from 2001-2015. Currently it is in a storage facility.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the National Society Sons of the American Revolution are just 2 of the many groups that support this Commemorative Event.

The 250th anniversary of the United States of America is a great Commemorative Event. House Bill 1285 has been introduced by Representatives Boschee, P.Anderson, Dobervich, Kasper and M. Rudy and Senators Dever, Marcellais and Oban. We encourage the passage of House Bill 1285. I welcome any questions