

KANSAS OFFICE of
REVISOR of STATUTES

LEGISLATURE of THE STATE of KANSAS
Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.

300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Waymaster and members of the House Appropriations Committee
From: Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 24, 2021
Subject: House bill 2353 – Establishing the Kansas commission for the United States semiquincentennial.

The 250th anniversary of America's founding will occur in 2026, and House Bill 2353 would establish a Kansas commission for the United States semiquincentennial to coordinate local and national efforts to mark the event.

The commission's charge would be to "plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and to recognize the impact of this event on the people of Kansas and the nation's past, present and future" and "cooperate with the United States semiquincentennial commission and various state agencies, boards, commissions, departments and political subdivisions in order to execute commemorative events and to implement educational activities, events and celebrations related to the semiquincentennial of the United States."

The board of the commission would be composed of 14 members as follows:

- (1) The secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism or the secretary's designee;
- (2) the secretary of commerce or the secretary's designee;
- (3) the executive director of the Kansas state historical society or the executive director's designee;
- (4) two members of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, including one member each from the majority and minority party;
- (5) two members of the senate to be appointed by the president of the senate, including one member each from the majority and minority party;
- (6) the state regent of the Kansas society daughters of the American revolution or the state regent's designee;
- (7) the president of the Kansas society sons of the American revolution or the president's designee;
- (8) the president of the Kansas historical foundation or the president's designee;
- (9) one representative from the Kansas bar association, appointed by the president of the association;
- (10) one professor of American history from a Kansas institution of higher education, appointed by the president of the state board of regents;

- (11) one teacher of American history from a public school, appointed by the state board of education; and
- (12) one representative appointed by the Kansas native American affairs office.

The commission would hold meetings throughout the state at times and locations determined by the chairperson, who will be selected by a majority vote of the commission and may serve up to two consecutive two-year terms. Members would not receive compensation for their work on the commission and non-legislative members would not receive allowances, mileage or reimbursement.

Members would serve as long as they hold the position that they were appointed from, and any vacancies would be reappointed by the same manner. The commission would be required to hold public meetings to solicit input in developing programs for the semiquincentennial and would be required to create a website to share such plans.

The commission would be required to submit a report to the governor and the legislature that contains the commission's specific recommendations, the projected number of jobs created, the economic impact, the geographic impact and how the success of the commission can be measured. The commission is also required to submit an annual report to those same parties beginning in 2023 and going forward detailing how funds are spent and whether the commission is meeting its goals.

A fund would be established in subsection 7(b) to allow the commission to receive gifts and donations. There are no appropriations for the commission in this bill. The commission would also be authorized to procure supplies, services and property; enter into contracts; and expend any funds received, upon appropriation. All such action by the commission must be approved by a majority vote of the commission.

On Dec. 31, 2027, the commission would expire and all funds and liabilities would be transferred to and imposed upon the operating expenditures account of the state economic development initiatives fund of the of the department of wildlife, parks and tourism. Any property in the possession of the commission at that time may be donated to local municipalities or other state agencies.

The commission would be within the department of wildlife, parks and tourism, but if Executive Reorganization Order 48 – transferring the division of tourism from parks, wildlife and tourism to commerce – were to be approved, the committee might consider an amendment to change references to the Department of Commerce.