

1 H.600

2 Introduced by Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Botzow of Pownal,  
3 Browning of Arlington, Corcoran of Bennington, Fields of  
4 Bennington, Keefe of Manchester, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris  
5 of Bennington, and Sullivan of Dorset

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: General provisions; Vermont 250th Commission

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the  
10 Vermont 250th Commission.

11 An act relating to creating the Vermont 250th Commission

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

14 2027 will mark the 250th anniversary of: the Vermont Declaration of  
15 Independence, adopted on January 15, 1777 in Westminster; the original  
16 Vermont Constitution, adopted on July 8, 1777 in Windsor; and the American  
17 victory at the Battle of Bennington, fought on August 16, 1777. These historic  
18 events are central to the history of our State and merit a coordinated set of  
19 commemorative celebrations that promote civic pride, tourism, and  
20 scholarship.

1       Sec. 2. VERMONT 250TH COMMISSION; CREATION; REPORT

2           (a) Creation. There is created the Vermont 250th Commission.

3           (b) Membership. The Commission shall be composed of the following  
4 members:

5           (1) six members, who shall not be members of the House, one each from  
6 Addison, Chittenden, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Windham, and Windsor Counties,  
7 who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

8           (2) six members, who shall not be members of the Senate, one each from  
9 Caledonia, Essex, Franklin, Orange, Orleans, and Rutland Counties, who shall  
10 be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

11           (3) one person, who shall be a member of the General Assembly, from  
12 Washington County, who shall be appointed by the Governor;

13           (4) the State Historic Preservation Officer or designee;

14           (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society or  
15 designee;

16           (6) the President of the Executive Board of Directors of the Bennington  
17 Area Chamber of Commerce or designee; and

18           (7) the Executive Director of the Bennington Area Chamber of  
19 Commerce or designee.

20           (c) Powers and duties. The Commission shall plan and sponsor events for  
21 both the general public and the scholarly community commemorating the

1 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Vermont Declaration of Independence  
2 and the adoption of the first Vermont Constitution and of the American victory  
3 at the Battle of Bennington. In conducting its work, the Commission may  
4 consult and partner with public and private sector organizations in Vermont  
5 and in other states.

6 (d) Report. On or before February 15, 2019, the Commission shall submit  
7 a written report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on  
8 Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on  
9 Government Operations, proposing a long-term budget, including an allocation  
10 of State and private sector costs and an initial description of events that the  
11 Commission may plan and sponsor.

12 (e) Meetings.

13 (1) The President of the Board of the Greater Bennington Area Chamber  
14 of Commerce shall call the first meeting of the Commission, to occur on or  
15 before September 1, 2018.

16 (2) The Committee at its first meeting shall select a chair from among its  
17 members.

18 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

19 (4) A member attending remotely may count toward the quorum and  
20 cast a vote.

1           (5) The Commission shall not be limited to a specific number of  
2           meetings, however it shall not spend funds beyond the amount of the  
3           appropriation provided for in subsection (g) of this section.

4           (6) The Commission shall cease to exist on December 31, 2027.

5           (f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Commission who  
6           are not employees of the State of Vermont and are not otherwise reimbursed  
7           for their attendance shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses, pursuant to  
8           32 V.S.A. § 1010, to the extent funds appropriated for the Commission remain  
9           available.

10          (g) Appropriations. The sum of \$2,000.00 is appropriated to the Vermont  
11          250th Commission from the General Fund in fiscal year 2018 for  
12          reimbursement of expenses for members of the Commission and for  
13          miscellaneous administrative costs the Commission may incur.

14          Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

15          This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.