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S.153

Introduced by Senators Sears, Balint, Campion and White

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: General provisions; Vermont 250th Commission

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

An act relating to creating the Vermont 250th Commission

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

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

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

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

1 (b) Membership. The Commission shall consist of nine members from
2 geographically diverse parts of the State, who are well known in their
3 respective regions, have a professional background or strong interest in
4 Vermont history, and who shall be appointed as follows:

5 (1) two members, who shall not be members of the House, whom the
6 Speaker of the House shall appoint;

7 (2) two members, who shall not be members of the Senate, whom the
8 Committee on Committees shall appoint;

9 (3) two members of the General Assembly whom the Governor shall
10 appoint;

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

12 (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society or
13 designee; and

14 (6) the President of the Executive Board of Directors of the Bennington
15 Area Chamber of Commerce or designee.

16 (c) Powers and duties. The Commission shall plan and sponsor events for
17 both the general public and the scholarly community commemorating the
18 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Vermont Declaration of Independence
19 and the first Vermont Constitution and of the American victory at the Battle of
20 Bennington. The Commission may consult and partner with public and
21 private-sector organizations in Vermont and in other states.

1 (d) Report. On or before February 15, 2020, the Commission shall submit
2 a written report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on
3 Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on
4 Government Operations, proposing a long-term budget, including an allocation
5 of State and private-sector costs and an initial description of events that the
6 Commission may plan and sponsor.

7 (e) Meetings.

8 (1) The President of the Board of the Greater Bennington Area Chamber
9 of Commerce shall call the first meeting of the Commission, to occur on or
10 before September 1, 2019.

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

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

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

16 (5) The Commission shall not be limited to a specific number of
17 meetings. However, it shall not spend funds beyond the amount of the
18 appropriation provided for in subsection (g) of this section.

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

20 (f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Commission who
21 are not employees of the State of Vermont and are not otherwise reimbursed

1 for their attendance shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses, pursuant to
2 32 V.S.A. § 1010, to the extent funds appropriated for the Commission remain
3 available.

4 (g) Appropriations. The sum of \$2,000.00 is appropriated to the Vermont
5 250th Commission from the General Fund in fiscal year 2020 for
6 reimbursement of expenses for members of the Commission and for
7 miscellaneous administrative costs the Commission may incur.

8 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on passage.