

S.153

An act relating to creating the Vermont 250th Commission

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

Sec. 1. VERMONT 250TH COMMISSION

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

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

(1) one person from each of the counties of Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Rutland, Windham, and Windsor, appointed by the Governor from a name or names that each county's legislative delegation shall submit;

(2) one member of the Senate, not from any of the counties listed in subdivision (b)(1) of this section, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(3) one member of the House, not from any of the counties listed in subdivision (b)(1) of this section, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(4) the Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society or designee;

(5) the State Curator or designee;

(6) the State Historic Preservation Officer or designee;

(7) one person, appointed by the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs;

(8) one person who is the author of published Vermont history books, appointed by the Governor; and

(9) one person, appointed by the Governor.

(c) Powers and duties. The Commission shall plan and sponsor events in advance of and in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the State of Vermont and that also look to the future of the State. The Commission shall coordinate with the Agency of Education, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Department of Tourism and Marketing, and with other State agencies and departments; with federal agencies and departments; with the municipalities of the State; and with national and local public and private sector organizations in this and other states for assistance and support in planning and conducting commemorative semiquincentennial activities.

(d) Meetings

(1) The Historic Preservation Officer or designee shall call the first meeting of the Commission to occur on or before September 1, 2020.

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

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

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

(5) The Commission shall not be limited to a specific number of meetings. However, it shall not incur expenses in excess of its appropriated funds.

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

(e) Compensation and reimbursement.

(1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Commission serving in his or her capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Commission.

(2) Other members of the Commission shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Commission.

#### Sec. 1a. APPROPRIATION

The sum of \$25,000.00 is appropriated to the Agency of Administration for the Vermont 250th Commission from the General Fund in fiscal year 2020 for reimbursement of expenses for members of the Commission and for miscellaneous administrative costs the Commission may incur.

#### Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.