
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2021 Wisconsin Act 95 [2021 Assembly Bill 388]

Wisconsin Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission

2021 Wisconsin Act 95 creates a Wisconsin Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission.¹ The Wisconsin Commission (“Commission”) is responsible for planning, coordinating, and implementing a program to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and to highlight the role of Wisconsin in that event and the impact of its people on the nation’s past, present, and future.

Among other duties, the Commission must plan and prepare educational events and opportunities relating to the semiquincentennial for use by public, private, and tribal elementary and secondary schools, and provide informational materials about those events and opportunities to the Department of Public Instruction for distribution to those schools. In turn, each public elementary or secondary school, including each charter school, must provide at least one of those events or opportunities to pupils in the 2025-26 school year.

The Commission is also required to coordinate with federal, state, local, and private agencies on infrastructural improvements and on projects to welcome regional, national, and international tourists.

The Commission is attached to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), and the act requires that DVA and the State Historical Society work together to support the Commission in the performance of its functions. In addition, the Legislature, the courts, and any executive branch office, department, or independent agency must cooperate with the Commission upon request.

The Commission must submit annual reports detailing its recommendations, plans for events, accounting of expenses, among other information. The Commission must submit a final report on January 1, 2027, containing an accounting of all funds expended and received and of all activities and events. Upon submission of the report, the Commission terminates.

Effective date: December 5, 2021

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¹ Congress created the United States Semiquincentennial Commission in 2016 to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the history of the United States leading up to the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. [See P. L. 114-196.]