

1973 Senate Bill 222

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CHAPTER 27 , Laws of 1973

AN ACT to amend 20.855 (5) (title); and to create 44.40 of the statutes, relating to the Wisconsin state American revolution bicentennial commission.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. 20.855 (5) (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

20.855 (5) (title) AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION.

SECTION 2. 44.40 of the statutes is created to read:

**44.40 American revolution bicentennial commission.** (1) In this section, "commission" means the American revolution bicentennial commission created in s. 14.88. This state shall observe the American revolution bicentennial to December 31, 1987.

(2) The commission shall prepare and execute a comprehensive program for commemorating the bicentennial of the American revolution in Wisconsin and plan, encourage, develop and coordinate observances and activities memorializing the historic events associated with and the legacy of the American revolution.

(3) The commission shall emphasize ideas associated with the American revolution which have been significant to the development of the United States and of Wisconsin and to mankind's quest for freedom. The spirit of the American revolution, which held highest the goals of individual liberty and responsibility, is not dimmed by time; hence, it is as pertinent to Wisconsin and the newer states as to the original 13, inasmuch as all American citizens share in that revolutionary legacy.

(4) In preparing its plans and program, the commission may participate in any related plans and programs developed by the American revolution bicentennial commission created by P.L. 89-491; 80 Stat. 259 and any state, local or private agencies or groups, and it may designate special committees with representatives from such bodies to aid in planning, developing, coordinating and executing specific activities.

(5) The commission shall submit to the governor and each member of the legislature, not later than July 4, 1973, an initial report making specific recommendations and detailing programs for the commemoration of the American revolution bicentennial and related events. The commission may recommend and undertake activities including but not limited to the following:

(a) The production, publication and distribution of books, pamphlets, films and other educational materials;

(b) Bibliographical and documentary projects and publications;

(c) Conferences, convocations, lectures, seminars and other programs;

(d) The development of libraries, museums, local historical societies and historic sites and exhibits, including mobile exhibits;

(e) Ceremonies and celebrations commemorating historic events and political concepts;

(f) Programs and activities on the national and international significance of the American revolution and its implications for present and future generations; and

(g) The issuance of commemorative medals, seals and certificates of recognition and other appropriate commemorative items as the commission deems necessary.

(6) The report of the commission shall include recommendations for the allocation of financial and administrative responsibility among the public and private authorities and organizations recommended for participation by the commission. The report shall also include any additional proposals for legislation and administrative action the commission considers necessary to carry out its mission. After reviewing the commission's report, the governor shall transmit a message to the legislature containing any comments and recommendations for legislation and a report of administrative actions taken by him.

(7) The commission shall submit an annual report to the governor and the legislature and may submit such other reports to the governor and the legislature as it deems appropriate or as are requested. A final report shall be made to the governor and the legislature on or before December 31, 1987.

(8) The commission may employ necessary personnel for the performance of its functions. It may fix the rate of compensation for such personnel within appropriations made therefor, and it may terminate their employment as necessary.

(9) In fulfilling its responsibilities, the commission shall consult, cooperate with and seek advice from appropriate state departments and agencies, local public and private bodies, learned societies and historical, patriotic, philanthropic, civic, professional and related organizations. State departments and agencies may cooperate with the commission in planning, encouraging, developing and coordinating appropriate commemorative activities.

(10) The commission shall determine if there are sites within the state which are appropriate for preservation or development in commemoration of the American

revolution bicentennial in a manner to ensure that fitting observances and exhibits may be held at the sites during the bicentennial observance.

(11) The presidents, chancellors and deans of universities and colleges and all heads of education institutions at all levels in the state are encouraged to cooperate with the commission, especially in the development and coordination of scholarly works and presentations.

(12) The commission may request and receive from any agency of the state or any political subdivision thereof facilities, assistance and data necessary to properly carry out its duties.

(13) The commission may accept donations of money, property or personal services. Funds shall be safeguarded, accounted for and expended by the commission as required in the performance of its mission. All agreements which may cause continued commitment of state funds shall first be approved by the governor and the legislative joint committee on finance.

(14) The commission may enter into lawful agreements and perform lawful acts necessary and proper to carry out its powers and duties.

(15) Membership on the commission is not in and of itself incompatible with holding other public office or employment. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but may receive reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses.

(16) When the commission ceases to exist, all of its records and assets shall be transferred to the historical society for appropriate disposition.

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