

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

HOUSE BILL 1776 By: Hilbert of the House

By: Hilbert of the House

and

**Pugh** of the Senate

## AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Oklahoma U.S.A. Semiquincentennial Commission; providing for membership; authorizing meetings; prescribing quorum requirement; authorizing travel reimbursement; prescribing duties; providing for transfer of certain assets; providing for termination of entity; requiring final report; prescribing content of report; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 7601 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma U.S.A. Semiquincentennial Commission. The Oklahoma U.S.A. Semiquincentennial Commission shall be composed of twenty-two members. The members are appointed as follows:

1. Five members shall be appointed by the Governor, one appointee from each of the five congressional districts;

1        2. Five members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the  
2 Oklahoma House of Representatives, one appointee from each of the  
3 five congressional districts;

4        3. Five members shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore  
5 of the Oklahoma State Senate, one appointee from each of the five  
6 congressional districts; and

7        4. Seven ex officio members shall be appointed as follows:

8            a. the Lieutenant Governor, who shall serve as  
9 chairperson, or a designee,

10          b. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical  
11 Society, who shall serve as vice-chair, or a designee,

12          c. the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce or  
13 designee who is an employee of the agency,

14          d. the State Superintendent of Public Instruction or a  
15 designee,

16          e. the Chancellor of the State Regents for Higher  
17 Education or a designee,

18          f. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Arts Council or  
19 a designee, and

20          g. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Tourism and  
21 Recreation Department or a designee.

22        An ex officio member of the Commission vacates the person's  
23 position on the Commission if the person ceases to hold the position  
24 that qualifies the person for service on the Commission.

1       B. The Commission shall meet at least quarterly at the times  
2 and places in this state that the Commission designates. A majority  
3 of the members of the Commission constitutes a quorum for  
4 transacting Commission business. Subject to appropriation, the  
5 Oklahoma Historical Society shall provide administrative and other  
6 support to the Commission.

7       C. The Commission shall:

8       1. Plan and sponsor official Semiquincentennial events,  
9 programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the United States  
10 Semiquincentennial;

11       2. Encourage the development of programs designed to involve  
12 all citizens in activities that commemorate the Semiquincentennial  
13 events; and

14       3. Make available to the public, to the best of the  
15 Commission's ability, information on Semiquincentennial events  
16 happening throughout the State of Oklahoma.

17       D. The Commission may accept monetary gifts, grants or  
18 appropriations from any public or private source to be held in a  
19 nonappropriated revolving fund authorized for the Oklahoma  
20 Historical Society and expended solely for the use of the Commission  
21 in performing the Commission's powers and duties under this act.  
22 The Commission may also accept in-kind gifts.

23       E. Each member of the Commission shall serve without  
24 compensation related to Commission duties, aside from the

1 compensation he or she might otherwise receive as authorized by law.  
2 Members of the Commission shall be reimbursed for travel expenses  
3 pursuant to the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

4 F. The Commission shall be dissolved on June 30, 2027, and any  
5 assets remaining in the Commission's trust fund shall be deposited  
6 into the state's General Revenue Fund.

7 G. A final report on the activities of the Oklahoma U.S.A.  
8 Semiquincentennial Commission shall be delivered to the Governor no  
9 later than March 1, 2024.

10 H. The report shall include a mission statement for the  
11 Commission, the goals of the Commission, a list of proposed  
12 activities in connection with observation of the U.S.A.  
13 Semiquincentennial event, a list of milestones together with  
14 applicable dates for executing proposed activities and a projected  
15 budget from planned activities and private fundraising goals.

16 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
17 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
18 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
19 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

20  
21 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT, dated  
22 02/14/2023 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.  
23  
24