

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

HOUSE BILL 1776

By: Hilbert

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 (22)
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.

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