

By: Hughes, et al.
(Leach)

S.B. No. 1350

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a commission to coordinate celebrations of the
bicentennial anniversary of Texas' independence.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle D, Title 4, Government Code, is amended
by adding Chapter 452 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 452. TEXAS BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Sec. 452.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "commission"
means the Texas Bicentennial Commission.

Sec. 452.002. COMMISSION. (a) The Texas Bicentennial
Commission is composed of the following 23 members appointed as
follows:

(1) nine members of the public appointed by the
governor with the advice and consent of the senate;

(2) three senators appointed by the lieutenant
governor;

(3) three members of the house of representatives
appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

(4) the following ex officio members:

(A) the executive head of the Texas Economic
Development and Tourism Office within the office of the governor;

(B) the executive director of the Texas
Historical Commission;

(C) the executive director of the Texas

1 Commission on the Arts;

2 (D) the director of the Texas Film Commission;

3 (E) the commissioner of education;

4 (F) the commissioner of higher education;

5 (G) the director of the travel information
6 division of the Texas Department of Transportation; and

7 (H) the director of the Institute of Texan
8 Cultures at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

9 (b) The public members appointed by the governor must
10 reflect the diverse geographic regions and population groups of
11 this state.

12 (c) Each member of the commission is a voting member. The
13 duties performed by an ex officio member of the commission
14 constitute additional duties of the underlying position that
15 qualifies the member for service on the commission.

16 (d) A member of the commission who is a senator or
17 representative vacates the member's position if the member ceases
18 to hold the underlying position that qualifies the member for
19 service on the commission.

20 (e) A public member shall serve until a successor is
21 appointed and qualified.

22 (f) A vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be
23 filled for the unexpired term in the manner provided for the
24 original appointment.

25 Sec. 452.003. TERMS. Appointed members of the commission
26 serve staggered six-year terms with the terms of three members
27 appointed by the governor, one member appointed by the lieutenant

1 governor, and one member appointed by the speaker of the house of
2 representatives expiring on January 31 of each odd-numbered year.

3 Sec. 452.004. PRESIDING OFFICER. (a) The governor shall
4 appoint one member of the commission to serve as presiding officer.
5 The presiding officer serves at the will of the governor.

6 (b) If the presiding officer is absent from a meeting or is
7 disabled, the members of the commission present at the meeting
8 shall elect a temporary presiding officer by majority vote.

9 Sec. 452.005. MEETINGS; QUORUM. (a) The commission shall
10 meet at least quarterly and at other times at the call of the
11 presiding officer or as provided by commission rule.

12 (b) Chapter 551 applies to the commission.

13 (c) Thirteen members of the commission constitute a quorum.

14 Sec. 452.006. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT. (a) A member
15 of the commission is not entitled to compensation for service on the
16 commission but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and
17 necessary expenses incurred in performing commission duties,
18 subject to any applicable limitation on reimbursement provided by
19 the General Appropriations Act.

20 (b) A member appointed by the governor shall be reimbursed
21 from the commission's funds. A member appointed by the lieutenant
22 governor or speaker of the house of representatives shall be
23 reimbursed from the appropriate fund of the member's chamber of the
24 legislature. An ex officio member shall be reimbursed from the
25 funds of the entity from which the member serves.

26 Sec. 452.007. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; STAFF. (a) The
27 commission may employ an executive director to serve as the

1 executive head of the commission and perform its administrative
2 functions.

3 (b) The executive director may employ staff necessary to
4 administer the commission.

5 Sec. 452.008. POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION. The
6 commission shall:

7 (1) encourage individuals, private organizations, and
8 local governmental bodies to organize activities celebrating the
9 bicentennial of this state's independence;

10 (2) assist individuals, private organizations, and
11 local governmental bodies that organize bicentennial activities to
12 coordinate the activities;

13 (3) gather and disseminate information to the public
14 about bicentennial activities conducted in the state;

15 (4) develop standards for bicentennial activities
16 organized by individuals, private organizations, and local
17 governmental bodies and sanction activities that comply with the
18 standards;

19 (5) invite national and international dignitaries to
20 attend and participate in bicentennial activities conducted in this
21 state;

22 (6) encourage persons living outside the state to
23 attend bicentennial activities occurring in the state;

24 (7) develop a logo to be used by the commission and
25 permit other persons to use the logo if the commission considers the
26 use appropriate; and

27 (8) sanction products the commission may sell,

1 including a commemorative calendar or flag, commemorating the
2 state's bicentennial.

3 Sec. 452.009. REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2037, the
4 commission shall file a report with the governor and the
5 legislature containing information about the effects of the
6 bicentennial activities conducted in this state on the state's
7 economy.

8 Sec. 452.010. DONATIONS; GRANTS. The commission may
9 solicit and accept, on behalf of the state, gifts, grants, and
10 donations from any source to be used by the commission to perform
11 its duties.

12 Sec. 452.011. RULES. The commission may adopt rules
13 necessary to perform its functions.

14 Sec. 452.012. EXPIRATION. The commission is abolished and
15 this chapter expires September 1, 2037.

16 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than December 1, 2025, the
17 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of
18 representatives shall appoint the initial members to the Texas
19 Bicentennial Commission in accordance with Section 452.002,
20 Government Code, as added by this Act.

21 (b) Notwithstanding Section 452.003, Government Code, as
22 added by this Act, in making the initial appointments to the Texas
23 Bicentennial Commission under Subsection (a) of this section:

24 (1) the governor shall designate three members for
25 terms expiring January 31, 2027, three members for terms expiring
26 January 31, 2029, and three members for terms expiring January 31,
27 2031;

1 (2) the lieutenant governor shall designate one member
2 for a term expiring January 31, 2027, one member for a term expiring
3 January 31, 2029, and one member for a term expiring January 31,
4 2031; and

5 (3) the speaker of the house of representatives shall
6 designate one member for a term expiring January 31, 2027, one
7 member for a term expiring January 31, 2029, and one member for a
8 term expiring January 31, 2031.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.