

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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C.S.S.C.R. 23
By: Schwertner
Administration
4/7/2021
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Residents and friends of the United States will mark the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding on July 4, 2026, and the United States Semiquincentennial Commission is working tirelessly to organize and facilitate the observance of this milestone. Established by the Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016, the United States Semiquincentennial Commission is a federal commission that collaborates with affiliates at the local, territorial, state, tribal, regional, national, and international levels. The initiative strives to educate, engage, and unite Americans throughout a commemorative period that ranges from 2020 to 2027, and its efforts will culminate in the Fourth of July events of 2026.

As of March 10, 2021, 11 states have established organizations to highlight themselves in the 250th commemoration by planning and implementing programs that honor the history and culture of the United States, including public art displays, museum exhibitions, and educational curriculums, and the commission expects the widest participation to occur through state and local projects like these. Since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Americans have treasured the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and Texas can pay tribute to these important values by joining in the celebration of the United States' 250th anniversary.

RESOLVED

That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby create the Texas America 250 Commission and work jointly with the United States Semiquincentennial Commission to help celebrate the semiquincentennial of the United States.

That the commission will include any federal designees residing in the state as well as a member or designee of each of the following commissions and departments: the Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism; the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission; the State Board of Education; the Bullock Texas State History Museum; and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

That the commission be funded solely through donations and federal funds and that it be abolished on December 31, 2026.