

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE VAN SCHOIACK.

2241H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

Relating to the America 250 Missouri Commission.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

1           **WHEREAS**, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and 250th  
2 anniversary of the United States of America are approaching in the coming years; and

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4           **WHEREAS**, such anniversaries are worthy of celebration at both the federal and state  
5 levels; and

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7           **WHEREAS**, in order to effect such a celebration in Missouri, there needs to be a  
8 coordinated effort at the state level:

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10           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
11 Representatives of the One Hundred Second General Assembly, First Regular Session, the  
12 Senate concurring therein, hereby create the America 250 Missouri Commission; and

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14           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the principal purpose of the Commission shall  
15 be to plan, promote, and implement where appropriate public celebrations and  
16 commemorations of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4,  
17 2026, and the 250th anniversary of the United States of America; and

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19           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission is authorized to cooperate with  
20 the United States Semiquincentennial Commission created by Public Law 114-196, other  
21 national and state organizations engaged in commemoration and celebration of the United  
22 States Semiquincentennial, and other national, regional, state, and local public and private

23 organizations having compatible purposes. It shall encourage various state agencies and  
24 organizations to work cooperatively to promote the Semiquincentennial; and

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26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission shall consider promoting and  
27 encouraging as part of its celebratory and commemorative events, electronic media, printed  
28 products, symposia, and educational outreach all of the following:

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30 (1) Awareness and understanding of the principles of the Declaration of Independence,  
31 of the winning of American independence in the American Revolutionary War, and of the  
32 establishment of America's system of constitutional self-government;

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34 (2) Teaching students and increasing public knowledge and appreciation of the  
35 breadth of American history and the centuries-long quest for "liberty and justice for all". This  
36 includes sharing the stories and contributions of the various people who have populated the  
37 land, from indigenous peoples, explorers, British colonists, seekers of religious freedom,  
38 enslaved African Americans, and many others who are part of America's stories. This should  
39 also include the commemoration of events that occurred in Missouri during the American  
40 Revolutionary War period, such as the Battle of Fort San Carlos in what is now the city of St.  
41 Louis in 1780;

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43 (3) Advancing the cause of liberty and American self-government and of the meaning  
44 of "E Pluribus Unum" ("From many, one"), through promoting civic knowledge and practice,  
45 including America's "Charters of Freedom" (the Declaration of Independence, the  
46 Constitution, and the Bill of Rights), and the constitutional features of self-government  
47 which emphasize the roles of active and engaged good citizens;

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49 (4) Emphasizing the service and sacrifices of veterans of all generations who have  
50 secured and preserved American independence and freedom and encouraging Missourians to  
51 honor them;

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53 (5) Celebratory and commemorative events and activities throughout the State of  
54 Missouri; and

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56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the membership of the Commission shall  
57 consist of thirteen voting members as follows:

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59 (1) The Governor of Missouri who shall serve as chair of the commission;

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61 (2) Two members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

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63 (3) Two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and two  
64 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

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66 (4) Two members who are Missourians serving on the United States  
67 Semiquincentennial Commission as certified by the executive officer of that Commission;

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69 (5) One member who is a representative of the Missouri Society of the Sons of the  
70 American Revolution appointed by the Governor;

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72 (6) One member who is a representative of the Missouri State Society Daughters of  
73 the American Revolution appointed by the Governor;

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75 (7) Two citizens at large, appointed by the Governor; and

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77 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** members shall serve for the life of the Commission,  
78 provided any public official's expiration of his or her term shall create a vacancy, and all  
79 vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as originally appointed; and

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81 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the appointing authorities shall coordinate their  
82 appointments so that diversity of gender, race, and geographical areas is reflective of the  
83 makeup of this state; and

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85 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission shall elect its chair, vice chair  
86 and any other officers it deems necessary. A majority of the members shall constitute a  
87 quorum to conduct business; and

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89 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Office of Administration shall provide  
90 administrative support for the Commission; and

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92 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission, its members, and any staff  
93 assigned to the Commission shall receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary  
94 expenses in attending meetings of the Commission, with such reimbursement for the  
95 legislative members only coming from the Joint Contingent Fund; and

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97           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission shall terminate by either a  
98 majority of the members voting for termination, or by December 31, 2027, whichever occurs  
99 first; and

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101           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his  
102 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri constitution.

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