

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 275

Introduced by Brewer, 43; McDonnell, 5.

Read first time January 12, 2021

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Semiquincentennial Commission; to
- 2 create a commission and provide duties for the commission relating
- 3 to the United States Semiquincentennial; to provide duties for the
- 4 Governor; and to declare an emergency.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Semiquincentennial Commission is created. The
2 commission shall be housed within the Nebraska State Historical Society
3 for administrative and budgetary purposes.

4 (2) The commission shall consist of seventeen members.

5 (3) The Legislature intends for the commission to include members
6 from all regions of the state, representing all major interests and a
7 diverse array of industries.

8 (4) The commission shall include the following members:

9 (a) The Director of Economic Development or the designee of such
10 person;

11 (b) The Commissioner of Education or the designee of such person;
12 and

13 (c) The President of the University of Nebraska or the designee of
14 such person;

15 (5) The commission shall include at least one member from each of
16 the following subdivisions to be appointed by the Governor before
17 September 1, 2021:

18 (a) A Native American from a federally recognized Indian tribe, as
19 of January 1, 2021, residing within the State of Nebraska. Such member
20 shall be appointed from a list of three nominees submitted by the
21 Commission on Indian Affairs;

22 (b) An African American who is a legal resident of the State of
23 Nebraska. Such member shall be appointed from a list of three nominees
24 submitted by the Commission on African American Affairs;

25 (c) A Latino-American who is a legal resident of the State of
26 Nebraska. Such member shall be appointed from a list of three nominees
27 submitted by the Commission on Latino-Americans;

28 (d) A curator or director of a private cultural institution as
29 defined in section 58-807.01 or a professional historian;

30 (e) A member of the Nebraska Tourism Commission;

31 (f) A representative from the Nebraska Humanities Council;

1 (g) A legal resident of the first congressional district, as such
2 district existed on January 1, 2021;

3 (h) A legal resident of the second congressional district, as such
4 district existed on January 1, 2021; and

5 (i) A legal resident of the third congressional district, as such
6 district existed on January 1, 2021.

7 (6) The same individual shall not fulfill the requirements of more
8 than one subdivision of subsections (4) and (5) of this section.

9 (7) No more than eight of the members shall be affiliated with the
10 same political party.

11 (8) Any vacancy on the commission of an appointed member occurring
12 after the initial appointment of members shall be filled by the Governor
13 by appointment.

14 (9) The commission shall terminate on June 30, 2027.

15 Sec. 2. (1) The Semiquincentennial Commission shall hold its first
16 meeting no later than September 1, 2022.

17 (2) The commission shall be chaired by the Director of the Nebraska
18 State Historical Society or the designee of the director.

19 (3) The members shall select a vice-chairperson and a secretary.

20 (4) Members shall be reimbursed for their expenses as provided in
21 sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

22 (5) The commission may employ personnel, contract for services, and
23 receive, expend, and allocate gifts, grants, and donations. The
24 commission shall expend and allocate any appropriations authorized by the
25 Legislature to carry out the purposes of the commission.

26 Sec. 3. (1) The Semiquincentennial Commission is the point of
27 contact for state and national organizations and events related to the
28 Semiquincentennial of the United States and may also seek the guidance
29 and support of any party.

30 (2) The Semiquincentennial Commission shall develop programs and
31 plans for the official observance of the two hundred fiftieth anniversary

1 of the founding of the United States, as marked by the Declaration of
2 Independence in 1776.

3 (3) The commission shall cooperate with the United States
4 Semiquincentennial Commission and various state agencies, boards,
5 commissions, departments, and political subdivisions in order to execute
6 commemorative events and to implement educational activities, events, and
7 celebrations related to the Semiquincentennial of the United States.

8 (4) The commission shall promote under-represented groups from the
9 American Revolutionary War, including, but not limited to, women,
10 American Indians, and persons of color.

11 Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
12 passed and approved according to law.