

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 59

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the America 250 Louisiana State Commission to work jointly with the federal America250 commission to help plan and coordinate the celebration of the semiquincentennial anniversary of the United States of America and to provide with respect to the America 250 state commission created by House Concurrent Resolution No. 96 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature and House Concurrent Resolution No. 50 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, on July 4, 2026, Americans across the United States will celebrate the 250th anniversary of our great nation's founding, and America250 is working tirelessly to organize and facilitate the observance of this milestone nationwide; and

WHEREAS, America250 was established by the Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 and is a federal commission that collaborates with affiliates at the local, territorial, state, tribal, regional, national, and international levels; the commission strives to educate, engage, and unite Americans throughout a commemorative period that ranges from 2020 to 2027; its efforts will culminate during the celebrations on July 4, 2026; and

WHEREAS, America250's February 2022 Report to the President of the United States accounted for twenty-one states that have established commissions; these state commissions support America250's mission by planning and implementing programs that honor the history and culture of the United States, including public art displays, museum exhibitions, and educational curricula, and the federal commission expects the widest participation to occur through state and local projects such as these; and

WHEREAS, America250 intends for the celebration to inspire the American spirit by deepening our understanding of our nation's history and the democratic process; it also strives to increase engagement in community and government and to foster unity between the "many" Americans and "one" nation; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana can pay tribute to our nation's most foundational values by joining in the celebration of the United States of America's two hundred fiftieth anniversary.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the America 250 Louisiana State Commission to work jointly with the federal America250 commission to help plan and coordinate the celebration of the semiquincentennial anniversary of the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission created by this Concurrent Resolution is the successor to the commission created by House Concurrent Resolution No. 96 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature and House Concurrent Resolution No. 50 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature, which is continued in effect except as modified by this Concurrent Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall advise the lieutenant governor of its activities regarding the semiquincentennial anniversary and that the lieutenant governor shall provide staff and other organizational support to the commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall be composed of any members of the federal commission residing in the state of Louisiana as well as the following members:

- (1) The governor, or his designee.
- (2) The executive director of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs shall appoint one member.
- (3) The lieutenant governor, or his designee.
- (4) The lieutenant governor shall appoint three members.
- (5) The assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of tourism, shall appoint one member.
- (6) The assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of cultural development, shall appoint one member.
- (7) The assistant secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of state museums, shall appoint one member.
- (8) The secretary of state, or his designee.
- (9) The state archivist shall appoint one member.

(10) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall appoint one member.

(11) The commissioner of higher education shall appoint one member.

(12) The president of the Louisiana Historical Association shall appoint one member.

(13) The president of the Louisiana Association of Museums shall appoint one member.

(14) The governor of the Order of the Granaderos y Damas de Galvez shall appoint one member.

(15) The president of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities shall appoint one member.

(16) The speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members.

(17) The president of the Senate shall appoint two members.

(18) The state superintendent of education shall appoint one member.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall be funded through donations and state and federal funds and the commission may accept donations and such funds to accomplish its purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission is abolished on July 4, 2027.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE