

103D CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 624

To establish a commission to advise the President on proposals for national commemorative events.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 1993

Mr. MCCURDY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

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## A BILL

To establish a commission to advise the President on proposals for national commemorative events.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “National Commemora-  
5       tive Events Advisory Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that—

8               (1) the preparation and consideration of the  
9       multitude of bills proposing particular days, weeks,  
10      months, or years for recognition through Presi-

1       dential proclamation unduly burdens the Congress  
2       and consumes an inordinate amount of time;

3           (2) such proposals could be more efficiently  
4       considered by a commission whose sole function  
5       would be to review proposals for national commemo-  
6       rative events and to make positive or negative rec-  
7       ommendations thereon to the President;

8           (3) such a commission would streamline the  
9       process by which such proposals are currently con-  
10      sidered and save the Congress considerable time and  
11      resources which could be devoted to matters of more  
12      pressing national concern; and

13          (4) such a commission would better ensure the  
14      impartial review of proposals for national commemo-  
15      rative events generated by a wide variety of constitu-  
16      ent groups.

17   **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.**

18          (a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established a com-  
19      mission to be known as the “President’s Advisory Com-  
20      mission on National Commemorative Events” (hereinafter  
21      in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

22          (b) MEMBERS.—The Commission shall be composed  
23      of 11 members, as follows:

24            (1) 2 members shall be appointed by the Speak-  
25      er of the House of Representatives.

1           (2) 2 members shall be appointed by the Presi-  
2           dent pro tempore of the Senate.

3           (3) 7 members shall be appointed by the Presi-  
4           dent. Members under this paragraph shall represent,  
5           insofar as possible, a wide range of educational, geo-  
6           graphical, and professional backgrounds. A Member  
7           of Congress may not be appointed under this para-  
8           graph.

9 All members must be citizens of the United States.

10          (c) TERMS.—(1) Each member shall be appointed for  
11 a term of 2 years, except as provided in paragraph (2).

12          (2) Of the members first appointed under subsection  
13 (b)(3)—

14               (A) 3 shall be appointed for 1 year, and

15               (B) 4 shall be appointed for 2 years,

16 as designated by the President.

17          (3) If a member was appointed to the Commission  
18 as a Member of Congress and the member ceases to be  
19 a Member of Congress, that member may continue as a  
20 member for not longer than the 30-day period beginning  
21 on the date that member ceases to be a Member of Con-  
22 gress.

23          (d) VACANCIES.—A vacancy shall be filled in the  
24 manner in which the original appointment was made. A  
25 vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers. Any

1 member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the  
2 expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor  
3 was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder  
4 of such term.

5 (e) CHAIRMAN.—The Chairman of the Commission  
6 shall be designated by the President from among the mem-  
7 bers under subsection (b)(3). The term of office of the  
8 Chairman shall be 2 years.

9 (f) QUORUM.—6 members of the Commission shall  
10 constitute a quorum. Action by a quorum shall be nec-  
11 essary for the Commission to issue a recommendation  
12 under section 6(d).

13 (g) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet on at  
14 least a quarterly basis. Meetings shall be held in the Dis-  
15 trict of Columbia.

16 (h) PAY.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2),  
17 each member of the Commission shall be paid the daily  
18 equivalent of the maximum rate of basic pay payable for  
19 grade GS-15 of the General Schedule for each day, includ-  
20 ing traveltime, during which such member is performing  
21 duties of the Commission.

22 (2) Members of the Commission who are full-time of-  
23 ficers or employees of the United States or Members of  
24 Congress may not receive additional pay by reason of their  
25 service on the Commission.

1 (i) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While away from their  
2 homes or regular places of business in the performance  
3 of services for the Commission, members of the Commis-  
4 sion shall be allowed travel expenses, including a per diem  
5 allowance in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as  
6 persons employed intermittently in the Government service  
7 are allowed travel expenses under section 5703 of title 5  
8 of the United States Code.

9 **SEC. 4. DIRECTOR; STAFF.**

10 (a) AUTHORITY.—The Commission may appoint and  
11 fix the pay of a Director and such staff as the Commission  
12 considers appropriate.

13 (b) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE  
14 LAWS.—The Director and staff of the Commission may  
15 be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5,  
16 United States Code, governing appointments in the com-  
17 petitive service, and may be paid without regard to the  
18 provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53  
19 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule  
20 pay rates, except that an individual so appointed may not  
21 receive pay in excess of the maximum rate of basic pay  
22 payable for grade GS-15 of the General Schedule.

23 (c) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request  
24 of the Chairman, the head of any Federal department or  
25 agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the

1 personnel of that department or agency to the Commission  
2 to assist it in carrying out its duties under this Act.

3 **SEC. 5. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

4 (a) HEARINGS.—The Commission may, for the pur-  
5 pose of carrying out this Act, hold such hearings, take  
6 such testimony, and receive such evidence, as it considers  
7 appropriate.

8 (b) GIFTS.—The Commission may accept, use, and  
9 dispose of gifts or donations of services or property, but  
10 not from a source having a direct interest in any matter  
11 before the Commission.

12 (c) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United  
13 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-  
14 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United  
15 States.

16 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Ad-  
17 ministrator of General Services shall provide to the Com-  
18 mission, on a reimbursable basis, such administrative sup-  
19 port services as the Commission may request.

20 **SEC. 6. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

21 (a) CRITERIA.—The Commission shall establish cri-  
22 teria for recommending to the President that a proposed  
23 commemorative event be approved or disapproved.

24 (b) SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS.—The Commission  
25 shall establish and publish in the Federal Register proce-

1 dures for submitting proposals for national commemora-  
2 tive events to the Commission.

3 (c) REVIEW OF PROPOSALS.—The Commission shall  
4 review all proposals submitted to it in accordance with  
5 subsection (b).

6 (d) RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT.—The  
7 Commission shall issue a recommendation to the President  
8 for approval or disapproval of each proposal submitted to  
9 it in accordance with subsection (b). Each recommenda-  
10 tion shall be accompanied by a brief explanation of the  
11 reasons why such recommendation was made.

12 **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE; COMMENCEMENT AND TERMI-**  
13 **NATION PROVISIONS.**

14 (a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect at  
15 the beginning of the One Hundred Third Congress.

16 (b) COMMENCEMENT; TERMINATION.—(1) Members  
17 of the Commission shall be appointed, and the Commission  
18 shall first meet, within 90 days after the effective date  
19 of this Act.

20 (2) The Commission shall terminate 5 years after the  
21 date on which it first meets.

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