

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R. 1451**

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**AN ACT**

To establish the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial  
Commission.

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## AN ACT

To establish the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Abraham Lincoln Bi-  
3 centennial Commission Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5       The Congress makes the following findings:

6           (1) Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President, was  
7       one of the Nation’s most prominent leaders, dem-  
8       onstrating true courage during the Civil War, one of  
9       the greatest crises in the Nation’s history.

10          (2) Born of humble roots in Hardin County,  
11       Kentucky, on February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln  
12       rose to the Presidency through a legacy of honesty,  
13       integrity, intelligence, and commitment to the  
14       United States.

15          (3) With the belief that all men were created  
16       equal, Abraham Lincoln led the effort to free all  
17       slaves in the United States.

18          (4) Abraham Lincoln had a generous heart,  
19       with malice toward none and with charity for all.

20          (5) Abraham Lincoln gave the ultimate sacrifice  
21       for the country he loved, dying from an assassin’s  
22       bullet on April 15, 1865.

23          (6) All Americans could benefit from studying  
24       the life of Abraham Lincoln, for his life is a model  
25       for accomplishing the “American Dream” through

1 honesty, integrity, loyalty, and a lifetime of edu-  
2 cation.

3 (7) The Year 2009 will be the bicentennial an-  
4 niversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, and a  
5 commission should be established to study and rec-  
6 ommend to the Congress activities that are fitting  
7 and proper to celebrate that anniversary in a man-  
8 ner that appropriately honors Abraham Lincoln.

9 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

10 There is established a commission to be known as the  
11 Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (in this Act  
12 referred to as the “Commission”).

13 **SEC. 4. DUTIES.**

14 The Commission shall have the following duties:

15 (1) To study activities that may be carried out  
16 by the Federal Government to determine whether  
17 they are fitting and proper to honor Abraham Lin-  
18 coln on the occasion of the bicentennial anniversary  
19 of his birth, including—

20 (A) the minting of an Abraham Lincoln bi-  
21 centennial penny;

22 (B) the issuance of an Abraham Lincoln  
23 bicentennial postage stamp;

1 (C) the convening of a joint meeting or  
2 joint session of the Congress for ceremonies and  
3 activities relating to Abraham Lincoln;

4 (D) a redesignation of the Lincoln Memo-  
5 rial, or other activity with respect to the Memo-  
6 rial; and

7 (E) the acquisition and preservation of ar-  
8 tifacts associated with Abraham Lincoln.

9 (2) To recommend to the Congress the activi-  
10 ties that the Commission considers most fitting and  
11 proper to honor Abraham Lincoln on such occasion,  
12 and the entity or entities in the Federal Government  
13 that the Commission considers most appropriate to  
14 carry out such activities.

15 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

16 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission  
17 shall be composed of 15 members appointed as follows:

18 (1) Three members, each of whom shall be a  
19 qualified citizen described in subsection (b), ap-  
20 pointed by the President.

21 (2) Two members, each of whom shall be a  
22 qualified citizen described in subsection (b), ap-  
23 pointed by the President on the recommendation of  
24 the Governor of Illinois.

1           (3) Two members, each of whom shall be a  
2           qualified citizen described in subsection (b), ap-  
3           pointed by the President on the recommendation of  
4           the Governor of Indiana.

5           (4) Two members, each of whom shall be a  
6           qualified citizen described in subsection (b), ap-  
7           pointed by the President on the recommendation of  
8           the Governor of Kentucky.

9           (5) Two members, each of whom shall be Mem-  
10          bers of the House of Representatives from the State  
11          of Illinois, appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
12          Representatives.

13          (6) One member, who shall be a Senator from  
14          the State of Illinois, appointed by the Majority  
15          Leader of the Senate.

16          (7) One member, who shall be a Senator, ap-  
17          pointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate.

18          (8) One member, who shall be a Member of the  
19          House of Representatives, appointed by the Minority  
20          Leader of the House of Representatives.

21          (9) One member, who shall be a Senator, ap-  
22          pointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

23          (b) QUALIFIED CITIZEN.—A qualified citizen de-  
24          scribed in this subsection is a private citizen of the United  
25          States with—

1           (1) a demonstrated dedication to educating oth-  
2       ers about the importance of historical figures and  
3       events; and

4           (2) substantial knowledge and appreciation of  
5       Abraham Lincoln.

6       (c) TIME OF APPOINTMENT.—Each initial appoint-  
7       ment of a member of the Commission shall be made before  
8       the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date  
9       of the enactment of this Act.

10       (d) CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If a member  
11       was appointed to the Commission as a Member of Con-  
12       gress and the member ceases to be a Member of Congress,  
13       that member may continue as a member for not longer  
14       than the 30-day period beginning on the date that member  
15       ceases to be a Member of Congress.

16       (e) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed for the  
17       life of the Commission.

18       (f) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall  
19       be filled in the manner in which the original appointment  
20       was made.

21       (g) BASIC PAY.—Members shall serve without pay.

22       (h) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall receive  
23       travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,  
24       in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5,  
25       United States Code.

1 (i) QUORUM.—Five members of the Commission shall  
2 constitute a quorum but a lesser number may hold hear-  
3 ings.

4 (j) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson shall be des-  
5 ignated by the President from among the members of the  
6 Commission appointed under section 5(a)(1). The term of  
7 office of the Chairperson shall be for the life of the Com-  
8 mission.

9 (k) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the  
10 call of the Chairperson. Periodically, the Commission shall  
11 hold its meeting in Springfield, Illinois.

12 **SEC. 6. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**

13 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission may appoint and  
14 fix the pay of a Director and any additional personnel as  
15 the Commission considers appropriate.

16 (b) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE  
17 LAWS.—

18 (1) DIRECTOR.—The Director of the Commis-  
19 sion may be appointed without regard to the provi-  
20 sions of title 5, United States Code, governing ap-  
21 pointments in the competitive service, and may be  
22 paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51  
23 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relat-  
24 ing to classification and General Schedule pay rates.



1           (2) STAFF.—The staff of the Commission shall  
2       be appointed subject to the provisions of title 5,  
3       United States Code, governing appointments in the  
4       competitive service, and shall be paid in accordance  
5       with the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III  
6       of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification  
7       and General Schedule pay rates.

8   **SEC. 7. POWERS.**

9       (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission  
10   may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hear-  
11   ings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and  
12   receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

13       (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-  
14   ber or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the  
15   Commission, take any action which the Commission is au-  
16   thorized to take by this section.

17       (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission  
18   may secure directly from any department or agency of the  
19   United States information necessary to enable it to carry  
20   out this Act. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Com-  
21   mission, the head of that department or agency shall fur-  
22   nish that information to the Commission.

23       (d) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United  
24   States mails in the same manner and under the same con-

1 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United  
2 States.

3 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon  
4 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of Gen-  
5 eral Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reim-  
6 bursable basis, the administrative support services nec-  
7 essary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities  
8 under this Act.

9 **SEC. 8. REPORTS.**

10 (a) INTERIM REPORTS.—The Commission may sub-  
11 mit to the Congress interim reports as the Commission  
12 considers appropriate.

13 (b) FINAL REPORT.—The Commission shall transmit  
14 a final report to the Congress not later than the expiration  
15 of the 4-year period beginning on the date of the formation  
16 of the Commission. The final report shall contain—

17 (1) a detailed statement of the findings and  
18 conclusions of the Commission;

19 (2) the recommendations of the Commission;  
20 and

21 (3) any other information the Commission con-  
22 siders appropriate.

23 **SEC. 9. TERMINATION.**

24 The Commission shall terminate 120 days after sub-  
25 mitting its final report pursuant to section 8.

1 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
3 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

4 **SEC. 11. BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE.**

5       Any spending authority (as defined in subparagraphs  
6 (A) and (C) of section 401(c)(2) of the Congressional  
7 Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 651(c)(2)(A) and (C)))  
8 under this Act shall be effective only to such extent and  
9 in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts.

      Passed the House of Representatives October 4,  
1999.

Attest:

*Clerk.*