

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1451

To establish the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 1999

Mr. LAHOOD (for himself, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. PHELPS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PORTER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HYDE, Mr. WELLER, Mr. EWING, Mr. CRANE, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President, was
9 one of the Nation’s most prominent leaders, dem-

1 onstrating true courage during the Civil War, one of
2 the greatest crises in the Nation’s history.

3 (2) Born of humble roots in Hardin County,
4 Kentucky, on February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln
5 rose to the Presidency through a legacy of honesty,
6 integrity, intelligence, and commitment to the
7 United States.

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

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

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

16 (6) All Americans could benefit from studying
17 the life of Abraham Lincoln, for his life is a model
18 for accomplishing the “American Dream” through
19 honesty, integrity, loyalty, and a lifetime of edu-
20 cation.

21 (7) The Year 2009 will be the bicentennial an-
22 niversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, and a
23 commission should be established to study and rec-
24 ommend to the Congress activities that are fitting

1 and proper to celebrate that anniversary in a man-
2 ner that appropriately honors Abraham Lincoln.

3 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4 There is established a commission to be known as the
5 Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (in this Act
6 referred to as the “Commission”).

7 **SEC. 4. DUTIES.**

8 The Commission shall have the following duties:

9 (1) To study activities that may be carried out
10 by the Federal Government to determine whether
11 they are fitting and proper to honor Abraham Lin-
12 coln on the occasion of the bicentennial anniversary
13 of his birth, including—

14 (A) the minting of an Abraham Lincoln bi-
15 centennial penny;

16 (B) the issuance of an Abraham Lincoln
17 bicentennial postage stamp;

18 (C) the convening of a joint meeting or
19 joint session of the Congress for ceremonies and
20 activities relating to Abraham Lincoln;

21 (D) a redesignation of the Lincoln Memo-
22 rial, or other activity with respect to the Memo-
23 rial; and

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

1 (2) To recommend to the Congress the activi-
2 ties that the Commission considers most fitting and
3 proper to honor Abraham Lincoln on such occasion,
4 and the entity or entities in the Federal Government
5 that the Commission considers most appropriate to
6 carry out such activities.

7 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

8 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
9 shall be composed of 9 members appointed as follows:

10 (1) 3 members, each of whom shall be a quali-
11 fied citizen described in subsection (b), appointed by
12 the President.

13 (2) 2 members, each of whom shall be a quali-
14 fied citizen described in subsection (b), appointed by
15 the President on the recommendation of the Gov-
16 ernor of Illinois.

17 (3) 2 members, each of whom shall be Members
18 of the House of Representatives from the State of
19 Illinois, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
20 Representatives.

21 (4) 1 member, who shall be a Senator from the
22 State of Illinois, appointed by the Majority Leader
23 of the Senate.

24 (5) 1 member, who shall be a Senator, ap-
25 pointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate.

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

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

7 (2) substantial knowledge and appreciation of
8 Abraham Lincoln.

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

13 (d) WAIVER OF LIMITATION ON EXECUTIVE SCHED-
14 ULE POSITIONS.—Appointments may be made under this
15 section without regard to section 5311(b) of title 5, United
16 States Code.

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

23 (f) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed for the
24 life of the Commission.

1 (g) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall
2 be filled in the manner in which the original appointment
3 was made.

4 (h) BASIC PAY.—Members shall serve without pay.

5 (i) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall receive
6 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
7 in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5,
8 United States Code.

9 (j) QUORUM.—5 members of the Commission shall
10 constitute a quorum but a lesser number may hold hear-
11 ings.

12 (k) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson shall be des-
13 ignated by the President from among the members of the
14 Commission appointed under section 5(a)(1). The term of
15 office of the Chairperson shall be for the life of the Com-
16 mission.

17 (l) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the
18 call of the Chairperson. Periodically, the Commission shall
19 hold its meeting in Springfield, Illinois.

20 **SEC. 6. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**

21 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission may appoint and
22 fix the pay of a Director and any additional personnel as
23 the Commission considers appropriate.

24 (b) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE
25 LAWS.—The Director and staff of the Commission may

1 be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5,
2 United States Code, governing appointments in the com-
3 petitive service, and may be paid without regard to the
4 provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53
5 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule
6 pay rates.

7 **SEC. 7. POWERS.**

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

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

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

22 (d) **GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.**—The Commis-
23 sion may accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or
24 devises of services or property, both real and personal, for
25 the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Com-

1 mission. Gifts, bequests, or devises of money and proceeds
2 from sales of other property received as gifts, bequests,
3 or devises shall be deposited in the Treasury and shall be
4 available for disbursement upon order of the Commission.
5 For purposes of Federal income, estate, and gift taxes,
6 property accepted under this subsection shall be consid-
7 ered as a gift, bequest, or devise to the United States.

8 (e) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the United
9 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
10 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United
11 States.

12 (f) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—Upon the
13 request of the Commission, the Administrator of General
14 Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimburs-
15 able basis, the administrative support services necessary
16 for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under
17 this Act.

18 **SEC. 8. REPORTS.**

19 (a) **INTERIM REPORTS.**—The Commission may sub-
20 mit to the Congress interim reports as the Commission
21 considers appropriate.

22 (b) **FINAL REPORT.**—The Commission shall transmit
23 a final report to the Congress not later than the expiration
24 of the 4-year period beginning on the date of the formation
25 of the Commission. The final report shall contain—

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

3 (2) the recommendations of the Commission;
4 and

5 (3) any other information the Commission con-
6 siders appropriate.

7 **SEC. 9. TERMINATION.**

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

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

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

13 **SEC. 11. BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE.**

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

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