

114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2615

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2016

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources

---

## AN ACT

To establish the Virgin Islands of the United States  
Centennial 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 “Virgin Islands of the  
3 United States Centennial Commission Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

5 There is established a commission to be known as the  
6 “Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commis-  
7 sion” (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

8 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

9 The Commission shall—

10 (1) plan, develop, and carry out such activities  
11 as the Commission determines to be appropriate to  
12 commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Virgin  
13 Islands of the United States becoming an unincor-  
14 porated territory of the United States;

15 (2) provide advice and assistance to Federal,  
16 State, and local governmental agencies, as well as  
17 civic groups to carry out activities to commemorate  
18 the 100th anniversary of the Virgin Islands of the  
19 United States becoming an unincorporated territory  
20 of the United States; and

21 (3) submit to the President and Congress the  
22 reports required pursuant to section 7.

23 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

24 (a) **NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.**—The Commission  
25 shall be composed of 8 members as follows:

1           (1) The Assistant Secretary of the Interior for  
2 Insular Affairs or a designee of the Assistant Sec-  
3 retary.

4           (2) One member appointed by the Governor of  
5 the Virgin Islands of the United States or a designee  
6 of the Governor.

7           (3) Two Members of the House of Representa-  
8 tives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Rep-  
9 resentatives.

10          (4) One Member of the House of Representa-  
11 tives appointed by the minority leader of the House  
12 of Representatives.

13          (5) Two Members of the Senate appointed by  
14 the majority leader of the Senate.

15          (6) One Member of the Senate appointed by the  
16 minority leader of the Senate.

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

19          (c) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—All members of  
20 the Commission shall be appointed not later than 90 days  
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

22          (d) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission  
23 shall—

24           (1) not affect the powers of the Commission;  
25          and

1           (2) be filled in the manner in which the original  
2           appointment was made.

3           (e) **RATES OF PAY.**—Members shall not receive com-  
4           pensation for the performance of duties on behalf of the  
5           Commission.

6           (f) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—Each member of the Com-  
7           mission shall be reimbursed for travel and per diem in lieu  
8           of subsistence expenses during the performance of duties  
9           of the Commission while away from home or regular place  
10          of business of the member, in accordance with applicable  
11          provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,  
12          United States Code.

13          (g) **QUORUM.**—A majority of the members of the  
14          Commission shall constitute a quorum to conduct busi-  
15          ness, but two or more members may hold hearings.

16          (h) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The chairperson of the Commis-  
17          sion shall be selected by a majority vote of the members  
18          of the Commission.

19          **SEC. 5. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION.**

20          (a) **DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**—The Commission shall  
21          appoint an executive director and such other additional  
22          personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to  
23          perform the duties of the Commission.

24          (b) **APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE**  
25          **LAWS.**—The executive director and staff of the Commis-

1 sion may be appointed without regard to the provisions  
2 of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in  
3 the competitive service, and may be paid without regard  
4 to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chap-  
5 ter 53 of such title relating to classification and General  
6 Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the  
7 executive director and other staff may not exceed the rate  
8 payable for level III of the Executive Schedule under sec-  
9 tion 5314 of such title.

10 (c) **DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—Upon re-  
11 quest of the Commission, the Secretary of the Interior or  
12 the Archivist of the United States may detail, on a reim-  
13 bursable basis, any of the personnel of the Department  
14 of the Interior or the National Archives and Records Ad-  
15 ministration, respectively to the Commission to assist the  
16 Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

17 (d) **EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.**—The Commission  
18 may procure such temporary and intermittent services  
19 from experts and consultants as are necessary to enable  
20 the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

21 (e) **VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.**—  
22 Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States  
23 Code, the Commission may accept and use voluntary and  
24 uncompensated services as the Commission determines  
25 necessary.

1 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) HEARINGS.—The Commission may, for the pur-  
3 pose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and act  
4 at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence  
5 as the Commission considers appropriate.

6 (b) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United  
7 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-  
8 ditions as other Federal agencies.

9 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission  
10 may secure directly from any Federal agency information  
11 necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties  
12 of the Commission. Upon request of the chairperson of  
13 the Commission, the head of that Federal agency shall fur-  
14 nish that information to the Commission.

15 (d) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, DEVISES.—The Commission  
16 may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or  
17 devises of money, services, or property, both real and per-  
18 sonal, for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work  
19 of the Commission.

20 (e) AVAILABLE SPACE.—Upon the request of the  
21 Commission, the Administrator of General Services shall  
22 make available to the Commission, at a normal rental rate  
23 for Federal agencies, such assistance and facilities as may  
24 be necessary for the Commission to perform the duties of  
25 the Commission.

1 (f) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Commission may  
2 enter into contracts with and compensate the Federal Gov-  
3 ernment, State and local governments, private entities, or  
4 individuals to enable the Commission to perform the du-  
5 ties of the Commission.

6 **SEC. 7. REPORTS.**

7 (a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than January 31  
8 of each year, and annually thereafter until the final report  
9 is submitted pursuant to subsection (b), the Commission  
10 shall submit to the President and the Congress a report  
11 on—

12 (1) the activities of the Commission; and

13 (2) the revenue and expenditures of the Com-  
14 mission, including a list of each gift, bequest, or de-  
15 vise to the Commission with a value of more than  
16 \$250, including the identity of the donor of each  
17 gift, bequest, or devise.

18 (b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than January 31,  
19 2018, the Commission shall submit a final report to the  
20 President and the Congress containing—

21 (1) a summary of the activities of the Commis-  
22 sion; and

23 (2) a final accounting of funds received and ex-  
24 pended by the Commission.

1 **SEC. 8. ANNUAL AUDIT.**

2 The Inspector General of the Department of the Inte-  
3 rior—

4 (1) may perform an audit of the Commission;

5 (2) shall make the results of any such audit  
6 available to the public; and

7 (3) shall transmit such results to the Com-  
8 mittee on Oversight and Government Reform of the  
9 House of Representatives and the Committee on  
10 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the  
11 Senate.

12 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) **FEDERAL AGENCY.**—The term “Federal  
15 agency” has the meaning given the term “agency”  
16 in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

17 (2) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of  
18 the several States, the District of Columbia, each  
19 territory or possession of the United States, and  
20 each federally recognized Indian tribe.

21 **SEC. 10. TERMINATION.**

22 The Commission shall terminate on September 30,  
23 2018, or may terminate at an earlier date determined by  
24 the Commission after the final report is submitted pursu-  
25 ant to section 7(b).



1 **SEC. 11. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

2 No Federal funds are authorized or may be obligated  
3 to carry out this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives April 26, 2016.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*