

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3073

To establish a commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of the passage and ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution providing for women’s suffrage, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 16, 2016

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish a commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of the passage and ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution providing for women’s suffrage, and for other purposes.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Establishment of Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission.
- Sec. 4. Duties of Centennial Commission.
- Sec. 5. Powers of Centennial Commission.
- Sec. 6. Centennial Commission personnel matters.
- Sec. 7. Termination of Centennial Commission.
- Sec. 8. Authorization of appropriations.

3 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) From 1919 to 1920, the Sixty-Sixth United
6 States Congress debated, and State legislatures con-
7 sidered, an amendment to the United States Con-
8 stitution to provide suffrage for women.

9 (2) A proposed women’s suffrage amendment
10 was first introduced in the United States Senate in
11 1878 and was brought to a vote, unsuccessfully, in
12 1887, 1914, 1918, and 1919. Finally, on May 21,
13 1919, the House of Representatives approved a pro-
14 posed amendment, followed by the Senate a few
15 weeks later on June 4. Within days, the legislatures
16 of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan had voted to
17 ratify the Amendment.

18 (3) On August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the
19 36th State to ratify the Amendment, providing the
20 support of three-fourths of States necessary under
21 article V of the United States Constitution.

1 (4) The introduction, passage, and ultimate
2 ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment were the
3 culmination of decades of work and struggle by ad-
4 vocates for the rights of women across the United
5 States and worldwide.

6 (5) Ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment
7 ensured women could more fully participate in their
8 democracy and fundamentally changed the role of
9 women in the civic life of our Nation.

10 (6) The centennial offers an opportunity for
11 people in the United States to learn about and com-
12 memorate the efforts of the women’s suffrage move-
13 ment and the role of women in our democracy.

14 (7) Commemorative programs, activities, and
15 sites allow people in the United States to learn
16 about the women’s suffrage movement and to com-
17 memorate and honor the role of the ratification of
18 the Nineteenth Amendment in further fulfilling the
19 promise of the United States Constitution and pro-
20 moting the core values of our democracy.

21 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE CENTEN-**
22 **NIAL COMMISSION.**

23 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a com-
24 mission to be known as the “Women’s Suffrage Centennial

1 Commission” (referred to in this Act as the “Centennial
2 Commission”).

3 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

4 (1) The Centennial Commission shall be com-
5 posed of 14 members, of whom—

6 (A) 2 shall be appointed by the President;

7 (B) 2 shall be appointed by the Speaker of
8 the House of Representatives;

9 (C) 2 shall be appointed by the minority
10 leader of the House of Representatives;

11 (D) 2 shall be appointed by the majority
12 leader of the Senate;

13 (E) 2 shall be appointed by the minority
14 leader of the Senate;

15 (F) 1 shall be the Librarian of Congress,
16 or the designee of the Librarian;

17 (G) 1 shall be the Archivist of the United
18 States, or the designee of the Archivist;

19 (H) 1 shall be the Secretary of the Smith-
20 sonian Institution, or the designee of the Sec-
21 retary; and

22 (I) 1 shall be the Director of the National
23 Park Service, or the designee of the Director.

24 (2) PERSONS ELIGIBLE.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The members of the
2 Commission shall be individuals who have
3 knowledge or expertise, whether by experience
4 or training, in matters to be studied by the
5 Commission. The members may be from the
6 public or private sector, and may include Fed-
7 eral, State, or local employees, former Members
8 of Congress, members of academia, nonprofit
9 organizations, or industry, or other interested
10 individuals.

11 (B) DIVERSITY.—It is the intent of Con-
12 gress that persons appointed to the Commission
13 under paragraph (1) be persons who represent
14 diverse economic, professional, and cultural
15 backgrounds.

16 (3) CONSULTATION AND APPOINTMENT.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The President, Speaker
18 of the House of Representatives, minority lead-
19 er of the House of Representatives, majority
20 leader of the Senate, and minority leader of the
21 Senate shall consult among themselves before
22 appointing the members of the Commission in
23 order to achieve, to the maximum extent prac-
24 ticable, fair and equitable representation of var-

1 ious points of view with respect to the matters
2 to be studied by the Commission.

3 (B) COMPLETION OF APPOINTMENTS; VA-
4 CANCIES.—The President, Speaker of the
5 House of Representatives, minority leader of
6 the House of Representatives, majority leader
7 of the Senate, and minority leader of the Sen-
8 ate shall conduct the consultation under sub-
9 paragraph (A) and make their respective ap-
10 pointments not later than 60 days after the
11 date of enactment of this Act.

12 (4) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the membership
13 of the Commission shall not affect the powers of the
14 Commission and shall be filled in the same manner
15 as the original appointment not later than 30 days
16 after the vacancy occurs.

17 (c) MEETINGS.—

18 (1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days
19 after the date on which all members of the Centen-
20 nial Commission have been appointed, the Centen-
21 nial Commission shall hold its first meeting.

22 (2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Centennial Com-
24 mission shall meet at the call of the Chair.

1 (B) FREQUENCY.—The Chair shall call a
2 meeting of the members of the Centennial Com-
3 mission not less frequently than once every 6
4 months.

5 (3) QUORUM.—Seven members of the Centen-
6 nial Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a
7 lesser number may hold hearings.

8 (4) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—The Centennial
9 Commission shall select a Chair and Vice Chair from
10 among its members.

11 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF CENTENNIAL COMMISSION.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The duties of the Centennial
13 Commission are as follows:

14 (1) To encourage, plan, develop, and execute
15 programs, projects, and activities to commemorate
16 the centennial of the passage and ratification of the
17 Nineteenth Amendment.

18 (2) To encourage private organizations and
19 State and local governments to organize and partici-
20 pate in activities commemorating the centennial of
21 the passage and ratification of the Nineteenth
22 Amendment.

23 (3) To facilitate and coordinate activities
24 throughout the United States relating to the centen-

1 nial of the passage and ratification of the Nine-
2 tenth Amendment.

3 (4) To serve as a clearinghouse for the collec-
4 tion and dissemination of information about events
5 and plans for the centennial of the passage and rati-
6 fication of the Nineteenth Amendment.

7 (5) To develop recommendations for Congress
8 and the President for commemorating the centennial
9 of the passage and ratification of the Nineteenth
10 Amendment.

11 (b) CONSULTATION.—In conducting its work, the
12 Centennial Commission shall consult the Historian of the
13 Senate and the Historian of the House of Representatives
14 when appropriate.

15 (c) REPORTS.—

16 (1) PERIODIC REPORT.—Not later than the last
17 day of the 6-month period beginning on the date of
18 the enactment of this Act, and not later than the
19 last day of each 3-month period thereafter, the Cen-
20 tennial Commission shall submit to Congress and
21 the President a report on the activities and plans of
22 the Centennial Commission.

23 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 2
24 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
25 Centennial Commission shall submit to Congress

1 and the President a report containing specific rec-
2 ommendations for commemorating the centennial of
3 the passage and ratification of the Nineteenth
4 Amendment and coordinating related activities.

5 **SEC. 5. POWERS OF CENTENNIAL COMMISSION.**

6 (a) HEARINGS.—The Centennial Commission may
7 hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places,
8 take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Cen-
9 tennial Commission considers appropriate to carry out its
10 duties under this Act.

11 (b) POWERS OF MEMBER AND AGENTS.—If author-
12 ized by the Centennial Commission, any member or agent
13 of the Centennial Commission may take any action which
14 the Centennial Commission is authorized to take under
15 this Act.

16 (c) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The
17 Centennial Commission shall secure directly from any
18 Federal department or agency such information as the
19 Centennial Commission considers necessary to carry out
20 the provisions of this Act. Upon the request of the Chair
21 of the Centennial Commission, the head of such depart-
22 ment or agency shall furnish such information to the Cen-
23 tennial Commission.

24 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
25 the request of the Centennial Commission, the Adminis-

1 trator of the General Services Administration shall provide
2 to the Centennial Commission, on a reimbursable basis,
3 the administrative support services necessary for the Cen-
4 tennial Commission to carry out its responsibilities under
5 this Act.

6 (e) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
8 graph (2), the Centennial Commission is author-
9 ized—

10 (A) to procure supplies, services, and prop-
11 erty; and

12 (B) to make or enter into contracts, leases,
13 or other legal agreements.

14 (2) LIMITATION.—The Centennial Commission
15 may not enter into any contract, lease, or other legal
16 agreement that extends beyond the date of the ter-
17 mination of the Centennial Commission under sec-
18 tion 7(a).

19 (f) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Centennial Commission
20 may use the United States mails in the same manner and
21 under the same conditions as other departments and agen-
22 cies of the Federal Government.

23 (g) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.—The Centen-
24 nial Commission is authorized to solicit, accept, use, and
25 dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of money, services,

1 or property, both real and personal, for the purpose of
2 covering the costs incurred by the Centennial Commission
3 to carry out its duties under this Act.

4 (h) GRANTS.—The Centennial Commission is author-
5 ized to award grants to States and the District of Colum-
6 bia to support programs and activities related to com-
7 memorating the centennial of the passage and ratification
8 of the Nineteenth Amendment.

9 **SEC. 6. CENTENNIAL COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

10 (a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Members of the
11 Centennial Commission shall serve without compensation
12 for such service.

13 (b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Cen-
14 tennial Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, in-
15 cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with
16 the applicable provisions of title 5, United States Code.

17 (c) STAFF.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chair of the Centennial
19 Commission shall, in consultation with the members
20 of the Centennial Commission, appoint an executive
21 director and such other additional personnel as may
22 be necessary to enable the Centennial Commission to
23 perform its duties.

24 (2) COMPENSATION.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
2 graph (B), the Chair of the Centennial Commis-
3 sion may fix the compensation of the executive
4 director and any other personnel appointed
5 under paragraph (1).

6 (B) LIMITATION.—The Chair of the Cen-
7 tennial Commission may not fix the compensa-
8 tion of the executive director or other personnel
9 appointed under paragraph (1) at a rate that
10 exceeds the rate payable for level IV of the Ex-
11 ecutive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5,
12 United States Code.

13 (d) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Upon
14 request of the Centennial Commission, the head of any
15 Federal department or agency may detail, on a reimburs-
16 able basis, any employee of that department or agency to
17 the Centennial Commission to assist it in carrying out its
18 duties under this Act.

19 (e) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-
20 TENT SERVICES.—The Chair of the Centennial Commis-
21 sion may procure temporary and intermittent services
22 under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

23 (f) ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—Not-
24 withstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code,
25 the Centennial Commission may accept and use voluntary

1 and uncompensated services as the Centennial Commis-
2 sion deems necessary.

3 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION OF CENTENNIAL COMMISSION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Centennial Commission shall
5 terminate on the earlier of—

6 (1) the date that is 30 days after the date the
7 completion of the activities under this Act honoring
8 the centennial observation of the passage and ratifi-
9 cation of the Nineteenth Amendment; or

10 (2) April 15, 2021.

11 (b) APPLICATION OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COM-
12 MITTEE ACT.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
14 graph (2), the provisions of the Federal Advisory
15 Committee Act shall apply to the activities of the
16 Centennial Commission under this Act.

17 (2) EXCEPTION.—Section 14(a)(2) of such Act
18 shall not apply to the Centennial Commission.

19 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
21 priated to carry out this Act such sums as may be nec-
22 essary for the period of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

23 (b) AMOUNTS AVAILABLE.—Amounts appropriated
24 in accordance with this section for any fiscal year shall

- 1 remain available until the termination of the Centennial
- 2 Commission.

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