



Sen. Doris Turner

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10200HB5015sam002

LRB102 23763 NLB 38112 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 5015

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 5015 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Illinois America 250 Commission Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

7 (a) Illinois became the 21st state on December 3, 1818, 42
8 years after the formation of the United States of America and
9 after thousands of years of Indigenous communities and peoples
10 inhabiting the land.

11 (b) Illinois figured prominently in the expansion of the
12 United States of America as the scene of extensive French and
13 British exploration and early economic generation with the fur
14 trade, serving as a frontier boundary for Westward expansion,
15 and as a place of forced removal of Indigenous nations.

16 (c) The historic and contemporary systems of inequality

1 produced through the enslavement of African American people in
2 Illinois must be acknowledged. Though the 1848 State
3 Constitution declared slavery to be illegal, the practice of
4 enslaving African Americans continued in Illinois, as did
5 participation in kidnapping and enslaving African Americans to
6 benefit Illinois' economy. Even following the abolition of
7 slavery, the 1908 Race Riot in Springfield led to the
8 slaughter of free African Americans and destroyed their
9 communities within the Illinois State capital city.

10 (d) Illinois was a key state in the American Civil War,
11 deploying over 250,000 soldiers to fight in the war. Illinois
12 served as the home of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of
13 the United States of America. Illinois was the first State to
14 ratify the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery.

15 (e) Millions of people have emigrated from and immigrated
16 to Illinois, or sought refuge in our State, bringing with them
17 their culture, lifeways, knowledge, and labor, which has
18 shaped Illinois into one of the nation's most diverse states.
19 With its largest city in Illinois, and the 3rd largest in the
20 nation, founded by a Black man, John Bapiste Point du Sable,
21 more than 110,000 African Americans came to Illinois as a part
22 of the Great Migration from the South through the advocacy of
23 Robert Abbott's Chicago Defender distributed by the Pullman
24 Porters. Illinois has proudly been made home by immigrants and
25 their descendants from Ireland, Italy, China, Poland, Eastern
26 Europe, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Japan, Central and South America,

1 Russia, Somalia, Eritrea, and across the continents of Africa
2 and Asia, the Caribbean, Vietnam, Thailand, India, and many
3 other parts of the world.

4 (f) Illinois is responsible for numerous social and
5 economic improvements that shaped the infrastructure and
6 social fabric of our nation, including, but not limited to,
7 the creation of the Illinois and Michigan Canal opening
8 navigation and trade between the Mississippi River and the
9 Great Lakes; Jane Addams' innovative social work at the Hull
10 House; Ida B. Wells' courageous journalism and commitment to
11 abolition; inventions like the John Deere steel plow and
12 modern barbed wire by Joseph Glidden that reshaped
13 agriculture; the opening of Route 66, the Mother Road,
14 originating in Chicago; the first McDonald's, a restaurant
15 that would change how Americans eat; and the first cellular
16 telephone, which changed communication forever.

17 (g) In 2008, the nation elected its first African American
18 president, President Barack Obama, who built his career as a
19 community organizer, law professor, and elected official in
20 Illinois.

21 (h) The 250th anniversary of our nation's founding
22 presents an opportunity for Illinoisans and Americans to
23 consider this legacy and reflect on a diversity of
24 perspectives and experiences that are often left untold.

25 (i) The nation's Semiquincentennial offers a commemoration
26 that focuses on all people who call Illinois home, in every

1 part of the State and of all ages and backgrounds, and centers
2 our shared humanity in this process, as well as our common
3 purpose. It offers every person in Illinois the opportunity to
4 see themselves within this complex history and create a more
5 just future.

6 Section 10. Creation of Illinois America 250 Commission;
7 definition; purpose. The Illinois America 250 Commission is
8 created. As used in this Act, "Commission" means the Illinois
9 America 250 Commission. The principal purpose of the
10 Commission shall be to plan, promote, and implement
11 appropriate commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the
12 founding of the United States of America
13 ("Semiquincentennial").

14 Section 15. Duties.

15 (a) The Commission shall develop, encourage, and execute
16 an inclusive commemoration and observance of the founding of
17 the United States of America, and Illinois' imperative role in
18 the nation's history.

19 (b) The Commission shall promote the inclusive and
20 respectful identification, interpretation, documentation,
21 preservation, and recognition of cultural and historical
22 narratives and resources, including traditional cultural
23 knowledge, oral histories, archival materials, objects,
24 buildings, structures, sites, and landscapes related to

1 Illinois history and prehistory.

2 (c) The Commission shall consider organizing its
3 activities under the 5 historic themes established by the
4 American Association for State and Local History in "The Field
5 Guide for the Semiquincentennial: Making History at 250".

6 (d) The Commission shall serve as the official
7 representative of the State of Illinois for the
8 Semiquincentennial and all related activities, communications,
9 and events.

10 (e) The Commission shall encourage various State agencies
11 and organizations to work cooperatively to promote the
12 Semiquincentennial.

13 Section 20. Authority; administrative support.

14 (a) The Commission is authorized to cooperate with the
15 United States Semiquincentennial Commission created by Public
16 Law 114-196, other states, tribal nations, and national,
17 State, and local organizations engaged in activities around
18 the United States Semiquincentennial, and other tribal,
19 national, regional, State, and local public and private
20 organizations having compatible purposes.

21 (b) The Illinois State Museum shall provide administrative
22 support to the Commission and may make expenditures according
23 to the Commission's policies and procedures and State law.

24 Section 25. Membership; meetings.

1 (a) Membership of the Commission shall consist of:

2 (1) Two members appointed by the Governor.

3 (2) One member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

4 (3) One member appointed by the President of the
5 Senate and one member appointed by the Speaker of the
6 House of Representatives.

7 (4) One member appointed by the Senate Minority Leader
8 and one member appointed by the House Minority Leader.

9 (5) The Illinois representatives serving on the United
10 States Semiquincentennial Commission as certified by the
11 executive officer of the United States Semiquincentennial
12 Commission.

13 (6) The Director of the Illinois State Museum, who
14 shall serve as the Commission Chair.

15 (7) The Harold Washington Library Archivist.

16 (8) A Black historian reflecting the experiences and
17 contributions of American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS).

18 (9) A historian reflecting the experiences and
19 contributions of Asian and Latina/o/x communities.

20 (10) The following members appointed by the Illinois
21 America 250 Commission Chair:

22 (A) Up to 12 representatives of tribal Nations and
23 communities including the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi,
24 Shawnee, Osage, the Peoria Tribe of Indians of
25 Oklahoma, inclusive of the Peoria, Kaskaskia,
26 Piankashaw, and Wea peoples, the Miami Tribe of

1 Oklahoma, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Ho-Chunk,
2 Menominee, the Chickasaw Nations, and additional
3 tribal members living in Illinois today.

4 (B) A representative of the Abraham Lincoln
5 Presidential Library and Museum.

6 (C) Up to 5 representatives from other State of
7 Illinois departments, agencies, or offices to which
8 the Semiquincentennial is relevant to its mission and
9 operations.

10 (D) A representative of Illinois humanities.

11 (E) A representative of a veterans' organization
12 such as, but not limited to, the American Legion, the
13 Disabled American Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign
14 Wars of the United States.

15 (F) A representative of the Daughters of the
16 American Revolution and the Sons of the American
17 Revolution.

18 (G) Up to 10 members of the general public with
19 related or relevant backgrounds, expertise, or
20 interests, appointed by the Governor. Knowledge in the
21 following shall be prioritized in making an
22 appointment under this item: the culture, traditions,
23 and history of American Indians/Native Americans;
24 Black Americans; Latinos/Latinas/Hispanic Americans;
25 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; the LGBTQAI+
26 community; immigrants and refugees; women's history;

1 the history of Illinois' agriculture, architecture,
2 armed forces, arts, civics, cultural geography,
3 ecology, education, faith-based communities, folklore,
4 government, industry, labor, law, medicine, and
5 transportation; anthropology; archeology; cultural
6 exhibits and museums; heritage tourism; historic
7 preservation; and social justice.

8 (11) One member representing a statewide organization
9 of municipalities as authorized by Section 1-8-1 of the
10 Illinois Municipal Code.

11 (b) Of the appointed membership, 60% must be people who
12 represent historically excluded and marginalized communities.

13 (c) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their
14 appointments to represent and celebrate the diverse makeup and
15 complex cultural geography of this State.

16 (d) The Commission shall adopt rules for the establishment
17 of a quorum and the conducting of business.

18 (e) Members shall serve for the duration of the
19 Commission, provided any public official's expiration of a
20 term of office shall create a vacancy. Any vacancy occurring
21 in the membership of the Commission shall be filled in the same
22 manner as the original appointment.

23 (f) The Commission shall hold meetings at least twice a
24 year:

25 (1) at times and places to be determined by the Chair;

26 and

1 (2) that are conducted in accordance with the Open
2 Meetings Act.

3 (g) Members shall serve without compensation and shall not
4 be reimbursed for expenses incurred in performing their
5 duties.

6 Section 30. Advisory committees and working groups. The
7 Chair of the Commission, with the concurrence of the
8 Commission, shall create one or more advisory committees and
9 working groups to advise the Commission.

10 Section 35. Fundraising. The Commission may solicit,
11 accept, use, and dispose of donations, funds, and gifts, in
12 conformance with public ethics laws, to support the purposes
13 and goals of the Commission. No elected public official
14 serving on the Commission shall be involved in soliciting any
15 private funds or gifts for the Commission.

16 Section 40. Reporting. The Commission shall make an annual
17 written report and make any recommendations to the Governor
18 and General Assembly at least 30 days prior to the convening of
19 each regular session of the General Assembly, commencing with
20 the start of the regular session in 2023 and continuing
21 through its final report.

22 Section 45. Dissolution; repeal.

1 (a) The Commission and its advisory committees are
2 dissolved on June 1, 2027.

3 (b) This Act is repealed on January 1, 2028.

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
5 becoming law.".