



Sen. Doris Turner

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10200HB5015sam003

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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 Baptiste 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 Governor's office shall encourage various State
11 agencies and organizations to work cooperatively to promote
12 the 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 State law.

24 Section 25. Membership; meetings.

1 (a) The Commission shall consist of the following members:

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

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

6 (3) One member appointed by the Senate Minority Leader
7 and one member appointed by the House Minority Leader.

8 (4) The Director of the Illinois State Museum.

9 (5) The Harold Washington Library Archivist.

10 (6) A Black historian reflecting the experiences and
11 contributions of American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS),
12 appointed by the Governor.

13 (7) A historian reflecting the experiences and
14 contributions of Asian and Latina/o/x communities,
15 appointed by the Governor.

16 (8) The following members appointed by the Governor:

17 (A) Three representatives of tribal Nations and
18 communities including the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi,
19 Shawnee, Osage, Peoria, Miami, Sac and Fox, Mesquaki,
20 Kickapoo, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, and additional tribal
21 members living in Illinois today.

22 (B) A representative of the Abraham Lincoln
23 Presidential Library and Museum.

24 (C) A representative from the Department of
25 Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

26 (D) A representative of Illinois humanities.

1 (E) A representative of the Illinois Municipal
2 League.

3 (F) Three members of the public with related or
4 relevant backgrounds, expertise, or interests.
5 Knowledge in the following shall be prioritized in
6 making an appointment under this item: the culture,
7 traditions, and history of American Indians/Native
8 Americans; Black Americans; Latinos/Latinas/Hispanic
9 Americans; Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; the
10 LGBTQAI+ community; immigrants and refugees; veterans'
11 organizations; women's history; the history of
12 Illinois' agriculture, architecture, armed forces,
13 arts, civics, cultural geography, ecology, education,
14 faith-based communities, folklore, government,
15 industry, labor, law, medicine, and transportation;
16 anthropology; archeology; cultural exhibits and
17 museums; heritage tourism; historic preservation; and
18 social justice.

19 (b) The Governor's office, with the assistance of the
20 Chair of the Commission and the Illinois State Museum, shall
21 be responsible for ensuring that 60% of the appointed members
22 of the Commission consist of people who represent historically
23 excluded and marginalized communities.

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

1 (d) The Commission may adopt bylaws for the establishment
2 of a quorum and the conducting of business.

3 (e) Members shall serve for the duration of the
4 Commission, provided any public official's expiration of a
5 term of office shall create a vacancy. Any vacancy occurring
6 in the membership of the Commission shall be filled in the same
7 manner as the original appointment.

8 (f) The Commission shall hold meetings at least twice a
9 year:

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

11 and

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

14 (g) Members shall serve without compensation and shall not
15 be reimbursed for expenses incurred in performing their
16 duties.

17 (h) The Governor shall appoint a member of the Commission
18 to serve as Chair of the Commission.

19 Section 30. Advisory committees and working groups. The
20 Chair of the Commission, with the concurrence of the
21 Commission, shall create one or more advisory committees and
22 working groups to advise the Commission. Any advisory
23 committee or working group shall conduct meetings in
24 accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

1 Section 35. Illinois America 250 Commission Trust Fund;
2 in-kind gifts.

3 (a) The Commission may accept monetary gifts and grants
4 from any public or private source, which shall be held in the
5 Illinois America 250 Commission Trust Fund. The Illinois
6 America 250 Commission Trust Fund is created as a
7 non-appropriated trust fund to be held outside of the State
8 treasury, with the State Treasurer as custodian. All gifts,
9 grants, assets, funds, or money received by the Commission
10 under this Act shall be deposited and held in the Trust Fund by
11 the State Treasurer as ex officio custodian separate and apart
12 from all public money or funds of this State and shall be
13 administered by the Commission exclusively for the purposes
14 set forth in this Act. All money in the Trust Fund shall be
15 invested and reinvested by the State Treasurer. All interest
16 accruing from these investments shall be deposited into the
17 Trust Fund.

18 (b) The Commission may also accept in-kind gifts.

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

1 Section 45. Dissolution; repeal.

2 (a) The Commission and its advisory committees and working
3 groups are dissolved on June 1, 2027, and any assets remaining
4 in the Illinois America 250 Commission Trust Fund shall be
5 deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

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

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
8 becoming law.".