
DIGEST

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Lorusso

HB No. 1287

Abstract: Creates the Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial Commission within the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism for the purpose of commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans.

Proposed law creates the Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial Commission within the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT). Provides for 11 commission members appointed as follows: two members appointed by the governor and two members appointed by the lieutenant governor; two members appointed by the Senate president; two members appointed by the House speaker; and three members appointed by state legislators whose districts include the Chalmette Battlefield or the Chalmette National Cemetery.

Allows the commission to employ staff and provides that members shall serve without compensation and shall not be reimbursed for expenses. Provides that no public funds may be expended by the commission unless specifically appropriated by the legislature. Requires that the commission hold its initial meeting not later than Oct. 1, 2010, and meet at least twice yearly thereafter. Provides for the commission to be domiciled in New Orleans but authorizes it to hold meetings elsewhere in the state.

Provides that the commission shall:

- (1) Plan and develop activities to commemorate the bicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans.
- (2) Encourage private organizations and local governments to participate.
- (3) Serve as a clearinghouse for information about bicentennial events and plans.
- (4) Cooperate and coordinate with any similar commission throughout the U.S.
- (5) Encourage state agencies to develop bicentennial programs.
- (6) Seek cooperation from private and governmental agencies and organizations.
- (7) Adopt rules and regulations regarding the use of any logos, symbols, or marks for use in connection with the bicentennial commemoration.

Authorizes the commission to solicit, accept, use, and dispose of money and other property. Provides that CRT may adopt rules or procedures for determining the value of donations.

Requires the commission, by April 1, 2011, to present the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget a master plan, including projected expenditures, and to submit an annual report to the lieutenant governor and the presiding officers of the legislature at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the 2011 and 2012 R.S. Requires the cooperation of state agencies, officials, and subdivisions in carrying out proposed law.

Places the commission in CRT pursuant to present law which grants policymaking and rulemaking authority to the commission but which grants CRT certain personnel and fiscal and budgetary authority.

Provides that the commission shall terminate on Jan. 8, 2016.

(Adds R.S. 25:1231-1237 and R.S. 36:209(Q))