

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to imprint "America 250" on license plates for private passenger motor vehicles and to issue such plates not later than January 2, 2025, through December 31, 2026, or until the Department of Public Safety and Corrections depletes its inventory of plates.

WHEREAS, July 4, 1776, through July 4, 2026, marks the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, announcing the colonies' separation from Great Britain; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence summarized the colonists' motivations for seeking independence; and

WHEREAS, by declaring themselves an independent nation, the American colonists were able to confirm an official alliance with the Government of France and obtain French assistance in the war against Great Britain; and

WHEREAS, when the initial battles in the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, few colonists desired complete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical; and

WHEREAS, by the middle of the following year, many more colonists had come to favor independence, thanks to growing hostility against Britain and the spread of revolutionary sentiments such as those expressed in the best-selling pamphlet "Common Sense," published by Thomas Paine in early 1776; and

WHEREAS, the Continental Congress met in Pennsylvania in June of 1776, a motion was introduced calling for the colonies' independence; and

WHEREAS, after heated debate, a vote on the resolution was postponed, but a committee was appointed to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain; and

WHEREAS, on July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of the resolution for independence followed by the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776; and

WHEREAS, July 4th became the date of the official celebration of American independence; and

WHEREAS, the Fourth of July is celebrated annually as "Independence Day", a beloved national holiday with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades, and concerts to family gatherings and barbecues; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana proudly celebrates the birth of our nation on the Fourth of July; and

WHEREAS, residents of Louisiana would like to be able to show their patriotic pride for the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America with a commemorative specialty license plate.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to imprint Louisiana license plates for private passenger motor vehicles with a design proposed by the America 250 Louisiana State Commission that includes the "America 250" logo on the plate the words and which retains Louisiana in red on the top of the plate, and on which shall be provided space for the yearly validation sticker in the bottom right-hand corner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the license plate described in this Resolution, which shall require no additional state funding, shall be an official license plate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall begin imprinting the plates at such time and on such a schedule as necessary to allow for issuance of the "America 250" license plate for private passenger motor vehicles beginning not later than January 2, 2025, and shall continue issuing such plates through

December 31, 2026, or until the Department of Public Safety and Corrections depletes its inventory of such plates, whichever is later.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on December 31, 2026, or after the Department of Public Safety and Corrections depletes its inventory of such plates, whichever is later, the department shall cease issuing the "America 250" license plate and the design of the standard Louisiana license plate shall revert to the design which received legislative approval as required in R.S. 47:463(A)(3) through passage of House Concurrent Resolution No. 121 of the 2004 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the deputy secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the America 250 Louisiana State Commission.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE