

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2235

To establish a Commission on the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase  
and the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 1999

Mr. GEPHARDT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To establish a Commission on the Bicentennial of the  
Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

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.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Louisiana Purchase  
5       and Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commission  
6       Act”.

7       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8       The Congress finds that—

9               (1) the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase  
10       occurs in 2003, two hundred years after the United

1 States, under the leadership of President Thomas  
2 Jefferson and after due consideration and approval  
3 by Congress, paid \$15 million to France to acquire  
4 the vast area in the western half of the Mississippi  
5 River Basin;

6 (2) the Louisiana Purchase was the largest  
7 peaceful land transaction in history and virtually  
8 doubled the size of the United States;

9 (3) the Louisiana Purchase opened the heart of  
10 the North American continent for exploration, settle-  
11 ment, and achievement, as exemplified by the Lewis  
12 and Clark Expedition of 1803 to 1806, which se-  
13 cured through heroic efforts the first documentation  
14 of the inhabitants, riches, and grandeur of this new  
15 territory of the United States;

16 (4) in the wake of the Louisiana Purchase and  
17 Lewis and Clark Expedition, immigrants from  
18 around the world came to the American frontier,  
19 which became emblematic of the search for political,  
20 economic, and spiritual freedom; and

21 (5) commemoration of the Louisiana Purchase  
22 and the opening of the West can enhance public un-  
23 derstanding of the impact of Westward expansion on  
24 American society and can provide lessons for demo-  
25 cratic governance in our own time.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION OF COMMIS-**  
2 **SION.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a com-  
4 mission to be known as the “Louisiana Purchase and  
5 Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commission”  
6 (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “Commission”)  
7 to plan, encourage, coordinate, and conduct the commemo-  
8 ration of the two hundredth anniversary of the Louisiana  
9 Purchase and its exploration by Lewis and Clark.

10 (b) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be com-  
11 posed of 24 members, who shall be appointed not later  
12 than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
13 as follows:

14 (1) Eight members appointed by the President  
15 upon the recommendation of the majority leader of  
16 the Senate in consultation with the minority leader  
17 of the Senate.

18 (2) Eight members appointed by the President  
19 upon recommendation of the Speaker of the House  
20 of Representatives in consultation with the minority  
21 leader of the House of Representatives.

22 (3) Eight members appointed by the President,  
23 which members shall be broadly representative of the  
24 people of the United States, and not otherwise offi-  
25 cers or employees of the United States.

1       (c) QUALIFICATIONS.—The President and each of the  
2 individuals making recommendations to the President re-  
3 garding appointments shall seek to achieve a balanced  
4 membership representing, to the extent practicable, the  
5 Nation as a whole. The Commission members shall be cho-  
6 sen from among individuals who have demonstrated schol-  
7 arship, a strong sense of public service, expertise in the  
8 learned professions, and abilities likely to contribute to the  
9 fulfillment of the duties of the Commission.

10       (d) TERMS.—Members of the Commission shall be  
11 appointed for the life of the Commission.

12       (e) INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION.—The President  
13 is authorized and requested to invite the governments of  
14 Canada, France, Great Britain, Mexico, and Spain each  
15 to appoint, not later than 90 days after the date of the  
16 enactment of this Act, one individual to serve as a non-  
17 voting participant in the activities of the Commission.

18       (f) CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR.—The President shall  
19 designate one of the members to be Chairperson, who shall  
20 serve in that position at the pleasure of the President. The  
21 Commission shall elect a Vice-Chairperson from among its  
22 members.

23       (g) QUORUM.—Thirteen members of the Commission  
24 shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may con-  
25 duct meetings.

1 (h) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall  
2 be filled in the same manner in which the original appoint-  
3 ment was made.

4 (i) COMPENSATION.—The members of the Commis-  
5 sion shall serve without compensation, but each member  
6 shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other nec-  
7 essary expenses incurred in the performance of Commis-  
8 sion duties.

9 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

11 (1) plan and develop activities appropriate to  
12 commemorate the bicentennial of the Louisiana Pur-  
13 chase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition, including  
14 a limited number of projects to be undertaken by the  
15 Federal Government, seeking to harmonize and bal-  
16 ance the important goals of ceremony and celebra-  
17 tion with the equally important goals of scholarship  
18 and education;

19 (2) consult with and encourage Indian tribes,  
20 appropriate Federal departments and agencies, State  
21 and local governments, foreign governments, and  
22 private organizations to organize and participate in  
23 bicentennial activities commemorating or examining  
24 the history of the Louisiana Territory, the negotia-  
25 tion of the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark

1 Expedition, the specific characteristics of the fron-  
2 tier movement and the westward expansion of the  
3 United States with their influences on the culture of  
4 the world; and

5 (3) coordinate, generally, activities throughout  
6 the United States and international activities related  
7 to the history and influence of the Louisiana Pur-  
8 chase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

9 (b) FEDERAL AGENCY COOPERATION.—Federal de-  
10 partments and agencies are authorized and requested to  
11 cooperate with the Commission in planning, encouraging,  
12 coordinating, and conducting appropriate commemorative  
13 activities.

14 **SEC. 5. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may provide  
16 for—

17 (1) the preparation, distribution, dissemination,  
18 exhibition, and sale of historical, commemorative,  
19 and informational materials and objects which will  
20 contribute to public awareness of, and interest in,  
21 the bicentennial, except that any commemorative  
22 coins, medals, or postage stamps recommended to be  
23 issued by the United States shall be sold only by an  
24 agency of the United States;

1           (2) competitions and awards for historical,  
2           scholarly, artistic, literary, musical, and other works,  
3           programs, and projects relating to the bicentennial;

4           (3) a bicentennial calendar or register of pro-  
5           grams and projects, and in other ways provide a  
6           central clearinghouse for information and coordina-  
7           tion regarding dates, events, places, documents, arti-  
8           facts, and personalities of bicentennial historical and  
9           commemorative significance; and

10          (4) the design and designation of logos, sym-  
11          bols, or marks for use in connection with the com-  
12          memoration of the bicentennial of the Louisiana  
13          Purchase and Lewis and Clark Expedition, and shall  
14          prescribe rules and regulations regarding their use,  
15          which shall provide that the Commission may not  
16          sell, lease, or otherwise grant to any person the right  
17          to use any such logo, symbol, or mark in connection  
18          with the production or manufacture of any commer-  
19          cial goods, or as part of an advertisement promoting  
20          any commercial goods or services.

21          (b) DONATIONS.—

22                (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may ac-  
23                cept, use, solicit, and dispose of donations of money,  
24                property, or personal services.

1           (2) LIMITATIONS.—The Commission may not  
2       accept donations—

3               (A) the value of which exceeds \$50,000 an-  
4       nually, in the case of donations from an indi-  
5       vidual; or

6               (B) the value of which exceeds \$250,000  
7       annually, in the case of donations from a cor-  
8       poration, partnership, or other business organi-  
9       zation.

10          (3) EXCEPTION.—The limitations in paragraph  
11       (2) shall not apply in the case of an organization de-  
12       scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue  
13       Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)) and exempt  
14       from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

15       (c) PRESERVATION.—All books, manuscripts, mis-  
16       cellaneous printed matter, memorabilia, relics, and other  
17       materials or property relating to the time period of the  
18       Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition,  
19       received by the Commission by donation may be deposited  
20       for preservation in National, State, or local libraries, mu-  
21       seums, or other agencies.

22   **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS AND POWERS.**

23       (a) IN GENERAL.—

24               (1) APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS.—The Chair-  
25       person, with the advice of the whole Commission,



1 shall appoint, to serve at the pleasure of the Chair-  
2 person, without regard to the provisions of title 5,  
3 United States Code, governing appointments in the  
4 competitive service—

5 (A) a Director who may be compensated at  
6 a rate not to exceed the rate of basic pay pay-  
7 able for level IV of the Executive Schedule es-  
8 tablished under section 5315 of such title; and

9 (B) a Deputy Director who may be com-  
10 pensated at a rate not to exceed the rate of  
11 basic pay payable for level V of the Executive  
12 Schedule established under section 5316 of such  
13 title.

14 (2) DELEGATION TO DIRECTOR.—The Commis-  
15 sion may delegate such powers and duties to the Di-  
16 rector as may be necessary for the efficient oper-  
17 ation and management of the Commission.

18 (b) GENERAL POWERS.—Subject to such rules and  
19 regulations as may be adopted by the Commission, the  
20 Commission may—

21 (1) appoint and fix the compensation of such  
22 additional personnel, not to exceed 20 staff mem-  
23 bers, as it deems advisable, without regard to the  
24 provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing  
25 appointments in the competitive service, and without

1        regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter  
2        53 of such title relating to classification and General  
3        Schedule pay rates, but at rates not in excess of the  
4        maximum rate for grade GS-15 of the General  
5        Schedule under section 5332 of such title;

6            (2) appoint such advisory committees as it  
7        deems necessary; and

8            (3) procure supplies, services, and property,  
9        make contracts, expend funds appropriated, donated,  
10       or received to carry out such contracts.

11        (c) STAFF DETAILED FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—  
12       Upon request of the Commission, the head of any Federal  
13       agency may detail any of the personnel of such agency  
14       to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying  
15       out its duties under this Act.

16        (d) STAFF PAID FROM DONATED FUNDS.—The  
17       Commission may appoint and fix the pay of additional per-  
18       sonnel to be paid out of private donations.

19        (e) PRINCIPAL OFFICE.—The principal office of the  
20       Commission shall be in St. Louis, Missouri.

21       **SEC. 7. REPORTING AND TERMINATION.**

22        (a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Commission shall re-  
23       port to the President and Congress annually on its activi-  
24       ties, its expenditures, and all donations.

1 (b) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—Not later than three  
2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-  
3 mission shall submit to the President and to Congress a  
4 comprehensive report incorporating its specific rec-  
5 ommendations for the commemoration of the bicentennial  
6 of the Louisiana Purchase and Lewis and Clark Expedi-  
7 tion and related events. The report of the Commission  
8 shall include recommendations for the allocation of finan-  
9 cial and administrative responsibility among the public  
10 and private authorities and organizations recommended  
11 for participation by the Commission. This report may rec-  
12 ommend activities such as—

13 (1) the production, publication, and distribution  
14 of books, pamphlets, films, electronic publications,  
15 and other educational materials focusing on the his-  
16 tory and impact of the Louisiana Purchase on the  
17 United States and the world;

18 (2) bibliographical and documentary projects,  
19 publications, and electronic resources;

20 (3) conferences, convocations, lectures, semi-  
21 nars, and other programs;

22 (4) the development of programs by and for li-  
23 braries, museums, parks, and historic sites, includ-  
24 ing national and international traveling exhibitions;

1           (5) ceremonies and celebrations commemorating  
2       specific events;

3           (6) the production, distribution, and perform-  
4       ance of artistic works, and of programs and activi-  
5       ties, focusing on the national and international sig-  
6       nificance of the Louisiana Purchase and the west-  
7       ward movement opening the frontier for present and  
8       future generations; and

9           (7) the issuance of commemorative coins, med-  
10      als, certificates of recognition, and postage stamps.

11      (c) FINAL REPORT AND TERMINATION.—The Com-  
12      mission shall make a final report to the President and  
13      Congress, and shall terminate, by March 1, 2007.

14      **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15      (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-  
16      priated to carry out the purposes of this Act \$1,000,000  
17      for fiscal year 2000 and such sums as may be necessary  
18      for the subsequent fiscal years through fiscal year 2007.

19      (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-  
20      priated under this section for any fiscal year shall remain  
21      available until March 1, 2007.

22      (c) LIMITATION.—The total appropriations author-  
23      ized under this Act shall not exceed \$8,000,000.

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