

Calendar No. 157

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 1079**

To establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 10, 2007

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. BROWN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

MAY 21, 2007

Reported by Mr. LEAHY, with amendments

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Star-Spangled Banner
5 and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) the War of 1812 served as a crucial test for
4 the United States Constitution and the newly estab-
5 lished democratic Government;6 (2) vast regions of the new multi-party democ-
7 racy, including the Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of
8 Mexico and the Niagara Frontier, were affected by
9 the War of 1812 including the States of Alabama,
10 Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illi-
11 nois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts,
12 Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi,
13 New Jersey, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New
14 York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island,
15 South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont, Wis-
16 consin, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia;17 (3) the British occupation of American territory
18 along the Great Lakes and in other regions, the
19 burning of Washington, DC, the American victories
20 at Fort McHenry, New Orleans, and Plattsburgh,
21 among other battles, had far reaching effects on
22 American society;23 (4) at the Battle of Baltimore, Francis Scott
24 Key wrote the poem that celebrated the flag and
25 later was titled “the Star-Spangled Banner”;

1 (5) the poem led to the establishment of the
2 flag as an American icon and became the words of
3 the national anthem of the United States in 1932;
4 and

5 (6) it is in the national interest to provide for
6 appropriate commemorative activities to maximize
7 public understanding of the meaning of the War of
8 1812 in the history of the United States.

9 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

10 (1) establish the Star-Spangled Banner and
11 War of 1812 Commemoration Commission;

17 (3) encourage War of 1812 observances that
18 provide an excellent visitor experience and beneficial
19 interaction between visitors and the natural and cul-
20 tural resources of the various War of 1812 sites;

21 (4) facilitate international involvement in the
22 War of 1812 observances;

23 (5) support and facilitate marketing efforts for
24 a commemorative coin, stamp, and related activities
25 for the War of 1812 observances; and

5 SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

6 In this Act:

10 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
11 means the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812
12 Bicentennial Commission established in section 4(a).

19 (5) STATES.—The term "States"—

20 (A) means the States of Alabama, Ken-
21 tucky, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Vermont,
22 Virginia, New York, Maine, Michigan, and
23 Ohio; and

24 (B) includes agencies and entities of each
25 State.

1 **SEC. 4. STAR-SPANGLED BANNER AND WAR OF 1812 COM-**2 **MEMORATION COMMISSION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a commission
4 to be known as the “Star-Spangled Banner and War of
5 1812 Bicentennial Commission”.

6 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be
8 composed of 22 members, of whom—

9 (A) 11 members shall be qualified citizens
10 appointed by the Secretary after consideration
11 of nominations submitted by the Governors of
12 Alabama, Kentucky, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine,
13 Maryland, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Vermont,
14 and Virginia;

15 (B) 3 members shall be qualified citizens
16 appointed by the Secretary after consideration
17 of nominations submitted by the Mayors of the
18 District of Columbia, the City of Baltimore, and
19 the City of New Orleans;

20 (C) 2 members shall be employees of the
21 National Park Service, of whom—

22 (i) 1 shall be the Director of the Na-
23 tional Park Service (or a designee); and

24 (ii) 1 shall be an employee of the Na-
25 tional Park Service having experience rel-
26 evant to the commemoration;

4 (i) 1 of which are submitted by the
5 majority leader of the Senate;

6 (ii) 1 of which are submitted by the
7 minority leader of the Senate;

11 (iv) 1 of which are submitted by the
12 minority leader of the House of Represent-
13 atives; and

14 (E) 2 members shall be appointed by the
15 Secretary from among individuals with exper-
16 tise in the history of the War of 1812.

21 (c) TERM; VACANCIES.—

22 (1) TERM.—A member shall be appointed for
23 the life of the Commission.

(B) shall be filled in the same manner as
the original appointment was made.

5 (d) VOTING.—

11 (e) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

12 (1) SELECTION.—The Commission shall select
13 a chairperson and a vice chairperson from among
14 the members of the Commission.

18 (f) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days after
19 the date on which all members of the Commission have
20 been appointed and funds have been provided, the Com-
21 mission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

22 (g) MEETINGS.—Not less than twice a year, the Com-
23 mission shall meet at the call of the chairperson or a ma-
24 jority of the members of the Commission.

1 (h) REMOVAL.—Any member who fails to attend 3
2 successive meetings of the Commission or who otherwise
3 fails to participate substantively in the work of the Com-
4 mission may be removed by the Secretary and the vacancy
5 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appoint-
6 ment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the
7 Secretary.

8 **SEC. 5. DUTIES.**

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

10 (1) plan, encourage, develop, execute, and co-
11 ordinate programs, observances, and activities com-
12 memorating the historic events that preceded and
13 are associated with the War of 1812;

14 (2) facilitate the commemoration throughout
15 the United States and internationally;

16 (3) coordinate the activities of the Commission
17 with State commemoration commissions, the Na-
18 tional Park Service, the Department of Defense, and
19 other appropriate Federal agencies;

20 (4) encourage civic, patriotic, historical, edu-
21 cational, religious, economic, tourism, and other or-
22 ganizations throughout the United States to orga-
23 nize and participate in the commemoration to ex-
24 pand the understanding and appreciation of the sig-
25 nificance of the War of 1812;

5 (6) coordinate and facilitate scholarly research
6 on, publication about, and interpretation of the peo-
7 ple and events associated with the War of 1812;

21 (b) STRATEGIC PLAN; ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
22 PLANS.—The Commission shall prepare a strategic plan
23 and annual performance plans for any activity carried out
24 by the Commission under this Act.

25 (c) REPORTS.—

10 (A) a summary of the activities of the
11 Commission;

12 (B) a final accounting of any funds re-
13 ceived or expended by the Commission; and

14 (C) the final disposition of any historically
15 significant items acquired by the Commission
16 and other properties not previously reported.

17 SEC. 6. POWERS.

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may—

4 (3) authorize any member or employee of the
5 Commission to take any action the Commission is
6 authorized to take under this Act;

16 (b) LEGAL AGREEMENTS.—

19 (A) procure supplies, services, and prop-
20 erty; and

21 (B) make or enter into contracts, leases, or
22 other legal agreements.

1 mission shall not extend beyond the date of termin-
2 nation of the Commission.

3 (c) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may secure
5 directly from a Federal agency such information as
6 the Commission considers necessary to carry out this
7 Act.

8 (2) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—On request
9 of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of
10 the agency shall provide the information to the Com-
11 mission in accordance with applicable laws.

12 (d) FAC~~A~~ APPLICATION.—The Federal Advisory
13 Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)—

14 (1) shall not apply to the Commission; and

15 (2) shall apply to advisory committees estab-
16 lished under subsection (a)(2).

17 (d) FAC~~A~~ NONAPPLICABILITY.—Section 14(b) of the
18 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not
19 apply to the Commission.

20 (e) NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this
21 Act supersedes the authority of the States or the National
22 Park Service concerning the commemoration.

23 **SEC. 7. PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

24 (a) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

19 (b) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND OTHER STAFF.—

1 Commission, and appoint and terminate such other
2 additional personnel as are necessary to enable the
3 Commission to perform the duties of the Commis-
4 sion.

5 (2) STATUS.—The Executive Director and other
6 staff appointed under this subsection shall be consid-
7 ered Federal employees under section 2105 of title
8 5, United States Code, notwithstanding the require-
9 ments of such section.

10 (3) CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIREC-
11 TOR.—The employment of an executive director shall
12 be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

13 (4) COMPENSATION.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
15 subparagraph (B), the Chairperson of the Com-
16 mission may fix the compensation of the execu-
17 tive director and other personnel without regard
18 to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter
19 III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code,
20 relating to classification of positions and Gen-
21 eral Schedule pay rates.

22 (B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of
23 basic pay for the executive director and other
24 personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for

1 level V of the Executive Schedule under section
2 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

3 (c) GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

4 (1) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

5 (A) SERVICE ON COMMISSION.—A member
6 of the Commission who is an officer or em-
7 ployee of the Federal Government shall serve
8 without compensation in addition to the com-
9 pensation received for the services of the mem-
10 ber as an officer or employee of the Federal
11 Government.

12 (B) DETAIL.—At the request of the Com-
13 mission, the head of any Federal agency may
14 detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable
15 basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the
16 Commission to assist the Commission in car-
17 rying out the duties of the Commission under
18 this Act.

19 (C) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—Notwith-
20 standing any other provisions in this section,
21 Federal employees who serve on the Commis-
22 sion, are detailed to the Commission, or other-
23 wise provide services under the Act, shall con-
24 tinue to be Federal employees for the purpose
25 of any law specific to Federal employees, with-

1 out interruption or loss of civil service status or
2 privilege.

3 (2) STATE EMPLOYEES.—The Commission
4 may—

5 (A) accept the services of personnel de-
6 tailed from States (including subdivisions of
7 States) under subchapter VI of chapter 33 of
8 title 5, United States Code; and

9 (B) reimburse States for services of de-
10 tailed personnel.

11 (d) MEMBERS OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Mem-
12 bers of advisory committees appointed under section
13 6(a)(2)—

14 (1) shall not be considered employees of the
15 Federal Government by reason of service on the
16 committees for the purpose of any law specific to
17 Federal employees, except for the purposes of chap-
18 ter 11 of title 18, United States Code, relating to
19 conflicts of interest; and

20 (2) may be paid travel expenses, including per
21 diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for
22 an employee of an agency under subchapter I of
23 chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while
24 away from the home or regular place of business of

1 the member in the performance of the duties of the
2 committee.

3 (e) VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.—
4 Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States
5 Code, the Commission may accept and use such voluntary
6 and uncompensated services as the Commission deter-
7 mines necessary.

8 (f) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Director of the Na-
9 tional Park Service shall provide to the Commission, on
10 a reimbursable basis, such administrative support services
11 as the Commission may request.

12 (g) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-
13 TENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Commission
14 may employ experts and consultants on a temporary or
15 intermittent basis in accordance with section 3109(b) of
16 title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that
17 do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of
18 basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule
19 under section 5316 of that title. Such personnel shall be
20 considered Federal employees under section 2105 of title
21 5, United States Code, notwithstanding the requirements
22 of such section.

23 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
25 priated to carry out this Act such sums as are necessary

1 not to exceed \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2008
2 through 2015.

3 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-
4 priated under this section for any fiscal year shall remain
5 available until December 31, 2015.

6 **SEC. 9. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall terminate
8 on December 31, 2015.

9 (b) TRANSFER OF MATERIALS.—Not later than the
10 date of termination, the Commission shall transfer any
11 documents, materials, books, manuscripts, miscellaneous
12 printed matter, memorabilia, relics, exhibits, and any ma-
13 terials donated to the Commission that relate to the War
14 of 1812, to Fort McHenry National Monument and His-
15 toric Shrine.

16 (c) DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.—Any funds held by the
17 Commission on the date of termination shall be deposited
18 in the general fund of the Treasury.

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