

**CHAPTER 131****( HJR 197 )**

A JOINT RESOLUTION relating to Kentucky's 225th anniversary celebration.

WHEREAS, it is argued that the area that was to be called Kentucky became known to European explorers as early as 1541, with an expedition lead by Hernando De Soto traveling from present-day Tampa, Florida, through Henderson, Kentucky, before turning back after reaching the Ohio River; and

WHEREAS, during the 17th century, other French and Dutch explorers and traders periodically ventured into and through Kentucky, later to be followed by hunters from the British colony known as Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 1774, James Harrod and thirty-seven others began an expedition that resulted in the first permanent settlement of European settlers at what was known as Harrod's Town in present-day Mercer County; and

WHEREAS, soon thereafter, Daniel Boone led a party of immigrants through the Cumberland Gap to establish a settlement at Boonesborough, and by doing so also created what is known as Boone's Trace, the first road into Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, during the period of the American Revolution, thousands of settlers came into the area seeking to establish farms, homes, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the first shot of the American Revolution was fired on April 19, 1775 and, upon hearing of the colonists' battle, settlers camped on the middle fork of Elkhorn Creek named their campsite Lexington in honor of their victory, and it was this campsite that grew into present-day Lexington, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, exactly seven years to the day later, on April 19, 1782, one of the last battles of the American Revolution was fought at what has come to be known as the Battle of Blue Licks near present-day Mount Olivet, Kentucky, soon leading to an end of the bloody struggle to secure American independence; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to obtain greater economic freedom, self-determination, and security, in 1784, the first of nine constitutional conventions was called with conferees meeting in Danville; and

WHEREAS, in 1788, Virginia issued enabling acts to allow Kentucky to petition for statehood; and

WHEREAS, in April, 1792, another convention was held in Danville that resulted in a ratified draft of Kentucky's first constitution, which was submitted to the United States Congress, and on June 1, 1792, Kentucky was admitted to the Union as the nation's fifteenth state; and

WHEREAS, from its beginnings, the promise of fertile soil, abundant natural resources, a temperate climate, and unlimited opportunity drew people seeking a better life;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. There is hereby created the Kentucky 225th Anniversary Commission, which shall be attached to the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet for administrative purposes. The commission shall be composed of fifteen (15) members, as follows:

- (1) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- (2) Two (2) members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- (3) The Lieutenant Governor or designee;
- (4) The First Lady of the Commonwealth of Kentucky or designee;
- (5) The secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet or designee;
- (6) The secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet or designee;
- (7) The executive director of the Kentucky Arts Council or designee;
- (8) The chairperson of the Kentucky Heritage Council or designee;
- (9) The executive director of the Kentucky Historical Society or designee;
- (10) The executive director of the Kentucky Education Association or designee;

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- (11) The chief executive officer of Kentucky Education Television or designee;
- (12) The president of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce or designee; and
- (13) The chief executive officer of the Kentucky Travel Industry Association or designee.

The chair of the commission shall be elected by the members from the membership of the commission.

➔Section 2. The Kentucky 225th Anniversary Commission shall:

- (1) Study and recommend activities, programs, and educational events that may be conducted throughout the Commonwealth in recognition and celebration of Kentucky's 225th anniversary of statehood;
- (2) Educate Kentucky's citizens and the nation about Kentucky's history;
- (3) Serve as a coordinating point for information about various state, regional, and local activities related to Kentucky's 225th anniversary;
- (4) Recommend materials, programs, and activities to public agencies, schools, and interested organizations related to Kentucky's history and its 225th anniversary; and
- (5) Seek grants and philanthropic support for activities celebrating Kentucky's history and its 225th anniversary.

➔Section 3. The Kentucky 225th Anniversary Commission shall expire on June 30, 2017.

**Signed by Governor April 13, 2016.**