

1 AN ACT establishing celebratory commissions for the Kentucky State Parks  
2 Centennial, the Kentucky State Semiquincentennial, and the Old Fort Harrod  
3 Semiquincentennial.

4 WHEREAS, the parks system of the Commonwealth of Kentucky will reach 100  
5 years of service to the citizens of the Commonwealth in 2024; and

6 WHEREAS, since its commencement in 1924 with the creation of Cumberland  
7 State Park, now known as Pine Mountain State Park, the parks system has grown to  
8 include 46 resorts, recreational parks, and historic sites throughout the Commonwealth;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the parks system provides recreational opportunities for hiking,  
11 camping, boating, fishing, golfing, horseback riding, and caving within the naturally  
12 beautiful landscapes of the Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, the parks systems provides educational opportunities for the public to  
14 experience the history of the Commonwealth; and

15 WHEREAS, the parks system has contributed to the economic well-being of the  
16 Commonwealth by drawing out-of-state tourists to its lakes, trails, and campgrounds; and

17 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth would be the poorer if the Kentucky State Parks  
18 system had not been established; and

19 WHEREAS, Fort Harrod was settled in 1774 by settlers led by James Harrod; and

20 WHEREAS, Fort Harrod was the first permanent pioneer settlement west of the  
21 Allegheny Mountains; and

22 WHEREAS, Old Fort Harrod State Park was established in 1927 to memorialize  
23 these intrepid pioneers; and

24 WHEREAS, Old Fort Harrod State Park has been a vital contributor to the  
25 community and economy of Harrodsburg and Mercer County as a whole; and

26 WHEREAS, it is vital to preserve the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in  
27 order to educate future generations of Kentuckians; and

1           WHEREAS, the years 1774 to 1776 were critical to the founding of the  
2 Commonwealth of Kentucky, the creation of the Declaration of Independence, and the  
3 formation of United States of America; and

4           WHEREAS, Kentuckians contributed so much to the American Revolution with  
5 many Kentuckians heeding the call to arms to help secure our independence from Great  
6 Britain; and

7           WHEREAS, the town of Harrodsburg, the first permanent English settlement west  
8 of the Allegheny Mountains, was first settled in 1774 and will celebrate 250 years of  
9 history in 2024; and

10          WHEREAS, Boone Trace, marked by Daniel Boone and his party of trailblazers in  
11 1775, was the primary entrance for Europeans moving westward into what is now  
12 Kentucky, creating the genesis for westward movement; and

13          WHEREAS, Native Americans, who lived in what is now Kentucky for thousands  
14 of years, were catastrophically affected by this European westward expansion; and

15          WHEREAS, during this period some of the first enslaved people of African descent  
16 traveled into what is now Kentucky, bringing slavery into the region for the first time; and

17          WHEREAS, the United States Semiquincentennial Commission was established to  
18 provide for the observance and commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding  
19 of the United States and related events through local, state, national, and international  
20 activities, planned, encouraged, developed, and coordinated by a national commission  
21 representative of appropriate public and private authorities and organizations; and

22          WHEREAS, the United States Semiquincentennial Commission has encouraged  
23 states to establish state-level commissions to plan and coordinate activities within each  
24 state celebrating the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding; and

25          WHEREAS, the establishment of a Kentucky Semiquincentennial Commission  
26 would enhance tourism, economic development, historic appreciation, historic  
27 preservation, genealogical connections, and outdoor recreation within the

1 Commonwealth;

2 NOW, THEREFORE,

3 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

4 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 148 IS CREATED TO  
5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 *(1) The Kentucky State Parks Centennial Commission is established to plan and*  
7 *implement events to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the state parks*  
8 *system in 2024. To accomplish its charge, the commission shall:*

9 *(a) Assist local governments and organizations with planning, preparation, and*  
10 *grant applications for parks centennial events and projects;*

11 *(b) Coordinate events and activities with parties, commissions and*  
12 *organizations wishing to participate in the centennial celebration;*

13 *(c) Seek funding sources such as foundations, line items, federal grants, and*  
14 *philanthropic organizations;*

15 *(d) Create press, print, and electronic contacts that generate stories on a*  
16 *continual basis; and*

17 *(e) Perform other duties necessary to highlight Kentucky's parks system during*  
18 *its one hundredth year.*

19 *(2) The Kentucky State Parks Centennial Commission shall consist of the following*  
20 *eleven (11) members:*

21 *(a) The secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet or his or her*  
22 *designee;*

23 *(b) One (1) additional member from the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet,*  
24 *appointed by the secretary;*

25 *(c) One (1) member from the Kentucky Historical Society, appointed by the*  
26 *executive director of the society;*

27 *(d) One (1) member from the Kentucky Heritage Council, appointed by the*

- 1           state historic preservation officer;  
 2           (e) Three (3) members selected by the secretary of the Tourism, Arts and  
 3           Heritage Cabinet who work in onsite park leadership;  
 4           (f) Two (2) citizen members, one (1) of whom shall be designated as the  
 5           chairperson and appointed by the Governor;  
 6           (g) One (1) member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker  
 7           of the House; and  
 8           (h) One (1) member of the State Senate appointed by the President of the  
 9           Senate.  
 10          (3) The Kentucky State Parks Centennial Commission shall be attached to the  
 11          Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet for administrative purposes only.  
 12          (4) This section shall expire on December 31, 2024.

13           ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 148 IS CREATED TO  
 14 READ AS FOLLOWS:

- 15          (1) As used in this section:  
 16           (a) "Commission" means the Old Fort Harrod State Park Semiquincentennial  
 17           Commission established in subsection (2) of this section; and  
 18           (b) "Semiquincentennial" means the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the  
 19           establishment of Fort Harrod in 1774.  
 20          (2) The Old Fort Harrod State Park Semiquincentennial Commission is hereby  
 21          established to plan and implement events to celebrate the two hundred fiftieth  
 22          anniversary of Old Fort Harrod in 2024. To accomplish its charge, the  
 23          commission shall:  
 24           (a) Ensure that adequate way-finding signage and mapping is accomplished to  
 25           mark and identify Old Fort Harrod State Park;  
 26           (b) Educate citizens of the Commonwealth and the nation about the stories of  
 27           pioneers and Native Americans in the early days of westward settlement and

- 1           *the impact Fort Harrod and settlements of its nature had on Kentucky and*  
2           *American history;*
- 3           *(c) Plan and implement events for a year-long semiquincentennial*  
4           *commemoration in the year 2024 of the founding of Fort Harrod and*  
5           *whatever subsequent events in the immediately preceding and following*  
6           *years deemed appropriate by the commission, including any battlefield*  
7           *commemorations if funds are available;*
- 8           *(d) Assist local governments with planning, preparation, and grant applications*  
9           *for semiquincentennial events and projects;*
- 10          *(e) Coordinate federal, state, local, and nonprofit organizations'*  
11          *semiquincentennial activities occurring in Kentucky;*
- 12          *(f) Coordinate events and activities with parties, commissions, and*  
13          *organizations wishing to participate in the 2024 commemoration;*
- 14          *(g) Act as a point of contact for national organizations wishing to distribute*  
15          *information to state and local groups about grant opportunities, meetings,*  
16          *and national events related to the settlement of Fort Harrod and*  
17          *semiquincentennial activities;*
- 18          *(h) Seek funding sources such as foundations, line items, federal grants,*  
19          *philanthropic organizations, and lineage societies;*
- 20          *(i) Create press, print, and electronic contacts that generate stories on a*  
21          *continual basis;*
- 22          *(j) Encourage and contract new publications and create a call for papers on*  
23          *Fort Harrod, James Harrod, or other participating or involved parties, and*  
24          *how the history of this early frontier settlement impacted American history;*
- 25          *(k) Organize symposiums and other methodologies to investigate genealogy*  
26          *relative to Fort Harrod;*
- 27          *(l) Create higher and lower educational programs; and*

1 (m) Perform other duties necessary to educate Kentuckians on the history of  
 2 Fort Harrod and early frontier settlements and on the Commonwealth's  
 3 role in early westward expansion.

4 (3) The commission shall consist of the following eleven (11) members:

5 (a) The secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet or his  
 6 or her designee;

7 (b) Two (2) members from the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet;

8 (c) One (1) member from the Kentucky Heritage Council, appointed by the  
 9 state historic preservation officer;

10 (d) One (1) member of the Kentucky Humanities Council, appointed by the  
 11 chair of the council;

12 (e) One (1) member of the Friends of Fort Harrod, recommended by the leader  
 13 of that organization and appointed by the Governor;

14 (f) Three (3) citizen members appointed by the Governor, one (1) of whom  
 15 shall be designated as the chairperson;

16 (g) One (1) member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker  
 17 of the House; and

18 (h) One (1) member of the State Senate appointed by the President of the  
 19 Senate.

20 (4) The Old Fort Harrod State Park Semiquincentennial Commission shall be  
 21 attached to the Kentucky Historical Society for administrative purposes only.

22 (5) This section shall expire on January 1, 2027.

23 ➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 148 IS CREATED TO  
 24 READ AS FOLLOWS:

25 (1) As used in this section:

26 (a) "Commission" means the Kentucky Semiquincentennial Commission  
 27 established in subsection (2) of this section; and

- 1        (b) "Semiquincentennial" means the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of  
2        historic events from 1774 to 1776 and include the founding of Harrodsburg  
3        in 1774, the opening of Boone Trace in 1775, the genesis of the westward  
4        movement, and the important events tied to our nation's founding in 1776.
- 5        (2) The Kentucky Semiquincentennial Commission is hereby established to plan and  
6        implement events to celebrate the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the United  
7        States in 2026. To accomplish its charge, the commission shall:
- 8        (a) Elect a chair of the commission and have the authority to form  
9        subcommittees and working groups that include non-commission members  
10       in order to plan, develop, and coordinate specific activities;
- 11       (b) Plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the two  
12       hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United States in 2026,  
13       and recognize Kentucky's integral role in that event and the impact of its  
14       people on the nation's past, present, and future;
- 15       (c) Educate Kentucky residents about the importance of the years 1774, 1775,  
16       and 1776 to the history of our state and nation, the importance of Boone  
17       Trace and the impact of the opening of the west, and how westward  
18       expansion affected Native Americans in what is now Kentucky;
- 19       (d) Assist local governments and organizations with planning  
20       semiquincentennial events and projects in their communities that  
21       commemorate the importance of 1774, 1775, and 1776 in our state and  
22       nation's history;
- 23       (e) Coordinate federal, state, local, and nonprofit organizations'  
24       semiquincentennial activities occurring in Kentucky;
- 25       (f) Act as a point of contact for national organizations wishing to distribute  
26       information to state and local groups about grant opportunities, meetings,  
27       and national events related to semiquincentennial activities;

- 1       (g) Seek funding sources such as foundations, line items, federal grants,  
2       philanthropic organizations, and lineage societies;
- 3       (h) Work with state and local partners to promote activities related to the  
4       semiquincentennial and, if deemed appropriate, any battlefield  
5       commemorations if funds are available; and
- 6       (i) Perform other duties necessary to highlight the importance of the years  
7       1774, 1775, and 1776 to Kentucky history.
- 8       (3) The commission shall consist of the following fifteen (15) members:
- 9       (a) Three (3) citizen members appointed by the Governor;
- 10       (b) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker  
11       of the House;
- 12       (c) Two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 13       (d) The secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet or his  
14       or her designee;
- 15       (e) Two (2) members from the Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet appointed  
16       by the secretary of the cabinet;
- 17       (f) One (1) member from the Kentucky Historical Society appointed by the  
18       executive director of the society;
- 19       (g) One (1) member from the Kentucky Heritage Council appointed by the state  
20       historic preservation officer;
- 21       (h) One (1) member from the Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission  
22       appointed by the chair of the Kentucky Native American Heritage  
23       Commission;
- 24       (i) One (1) member from the Kentucky African American Heritage  
25       Commission appointed by the chair of the Kentucky African-American  
26       Heritage Commission; and
- 27       (j) The president of Friends of Boone Trace, Inc., or his or her designee.



1 **(4) The commission shall be attached to the Kentucky Historical Society for**  
2 **administrative purposes only.**

3 **(5) This section shall expire on January 1, 2027.**

4 ➔Section 4. (1) Section 1 of this Act, as codified following the 2020 Regular  
5 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, shall be repealed effective December 31,  
6 2024.

7 (2) Sections 2 and 3 of this Act, as codified following the 2020 Regular Session of  
8 the Kentucky General Assembly, shall be repealed effective January 1, 2027.