

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL 944

6 By: Pugh

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to the Semiquincentennial of the  
9 United States; creating the Oklahoma  
10 Semiquincentennial Commission; providing sunset date;  
11 providing for duties of the Commission; providing for  
12 membership; providing deadline for appointments and  
13 first meeting; providing for staffing; declaring  
14 quorum; allowing travel expense reimbursement;  
15 declaring certain authorization; requiring report;  
16 creating the Semiquincentennial Revolving Fund;  
17 providing sunset date; transferring remaining monies  
18 after sunset date; providing for codification; and  
19 declaring an emergency.

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

21 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 500 of Title 53, unless there is  
23 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

24 A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Semiquincentennial  
Commission until June 30, 2027.

B. The duties of the Commission shall be as follows:

1. Be the point of contact for state and national organizations  
and events related to the Semiquincentennial of the United States;

1       2. Develop programs and plans for the official observance of  
2 the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States in 2026,  
3 as marked by the Declaration of Independence in 1776; and

4       3. Cooperate with the United States Semiquincentennial  
5 Commission and various state agencies, boards, commissions,  
6 departments, and political subdivisions in order to execute  
7 commemorative events and to implement educational activities,  
8 events, and celebrations related to the Semiquincentennial of the  
9 United States.

10       C. The Commission shall be composed of twenty-five (25)  
11 members. The members shall serve as follows:

12       1. Five members appointed by the Governor as follows:

13           a. one who shall be a member with experience in the study  
14               and documentation of the history of Latino communities  
15               in Oklahoma,

16           b. one who shall be a member with experience in the study  
17               and documentation of the history of Black communities  
18               in Oklahoma,

19           c. one who shall be a member with experience in the study  
20               and documentation of the history of American Indian  
21               communities in Oklahoma,

22           d. one who shall be a current fifth-grade teacher  
23               currently certified to teach in Oklahoma with  
24               experience teaching United States history, and

1 e. one who shall be a secondary teacher currently  
2 certified to teach United States history in Oklahoma;

3 2. Five members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House  
4 of Representatives, one appointee from each of the five  
5 congressional districts;

6 3. Five members shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore  
7 of the Senate, one appointee from each of the five congressional  
8 districts; and

9 4. Nine voting ex officio members shall be appointed as  
10 follows:

11 a. the Lieutenant Governor, or designee, who shall serve  
12 as chair,

13 b. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical  
14 Society, or designee, who shall serve as vice chair,

15 c. the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce,  
16 or designee,

17 d. the Superintendent of Public Instruction, or designee,

18 e. the Chancellor of the State Regents for Higher  
19 Education, or designee,

20 f. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Arts Council,  
21 or designee,

22 g. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Tourism and  
23 Recreation Department, or designee,

24 h. the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or designee,

1 i. the Regent of the Oklahoma Society Daughters of the  
2 American Revolution, and

3 j. the President of the Oklahoma Society of the Sons of  
4 the American Revolution.

5 D. Commission members may be removed for cause. Whenever a  
6 vacancy on the Commission occurs by death, resignation, or  
7 otherwise, the appointing authority shall fill the same by  
8 appointment, and the appointee shall hold office during the  
9 unexpired term. Each member shall hold office until a successor has  
10 been appointed.

11 E. All appointments to the Commission shall be made no later  
12 than August 1, 2023. The Commission shall hold its first meeting no  
13 later than September 1, 2023. The Commission shall be staffed by  
14 the Oklahoma Historical Society. All appropriate agencies of state  
15 government shall provide assistance to the Commission upon request  
16 of the Commission.

17 F. A quorum of thirteen members shall be required to conduct  
18 official business of the Commission. The Commission may establish  
19 subcommittees to effectuate the purpose the Commission. The  
20 Commission shall meet as often as necessary to perform its duties.

21 G. Members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for  
22 serving on the Commission but shall receive travel reimbursement for  
23 necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their  
24

1 duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the State  
2 Travel Reimbursement Act.

3 H. The Commission shall be authorized to:

- 4 a. employ personnel,
- 5 b. contract for services, and
- 6 c. accept gifts, grants, and donations which shall be  
7 deposited into the Semiquincentennial Revolving Fund,  
8 created in Section 2 of this act.

9 I. On or after June 30, 2027, any remaining supplies or  
10 property of the Commission shall transfer to the Oklahoma Historical  
11 Society.

12 J. No later than March 1, 2024, the Commission shall  
13 electronically submit a report to the Governor, President Pro  
14 Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
15 Representatives to include the following information:

- 16 1. Mission statement of the Commission;
- 17 2. Goals of the Commission;
- 18 3. List of proposed activities;
- 19 4. List of milestones along with applicable dates for executing  
20 the proposed activities; and
- 21 5. Projected budget for planned activities and private  
22 fundraising goals.

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1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 501 of Title 53, unless there is  
3 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund  
5 for the Oklahoma Historical Society to be designated the  
6 "Semiquincentennial Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing  
7 fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of  
8 all monies received from legislative appropriations, private  
9 donations, gifts, and grants. All monies accruing to the credit of  
10 the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by  
11 the Oklahoma Semiquincentennial Commission for the purposes of the  
12 Commission. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants  
13 issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by  
14 law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise  
15 Services for approval and payment. The Semiquincentennial Revolving  
16 Fund shall sunset on June 30, 2027. Any remaining monies in the  
17 fund shall transfer to the Historical Society Revolving Fund,  
18 created in Section 1.10 of Title 53 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

19 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
20 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
21 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
22 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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