

1 S.190

2 Introduced by Senators Sears and Campion

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: General provisions; Vermont 250th Commission

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the
7 Vermont 250th Commission.

8 An act relating to creating the Vermont 250th Commission

9 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

10 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

11 2027 will mark the 250th anniversary of: the Vermont Declaration of
12 Independence, adopted on January 15, 1777 in Westminster; the original
13 Vermont Constitution, adopted on July 8, 1777 in Windsor; and the American
14 victory at the Battle of Bennington, fought on August 16, 1777. These historic
15 events are central to the history of our State and merit a coordinated set of
16 commemorative celebrations that promote civic pride, tourism, and
17 scholarship.

18 Sec. 2. VERMONT 250TH COMMISSION; CREATION; REPORT

19 (a) Creation. There is created the Vermont 250th Commission.

1 (b) Membership. The Commission shall be composed of the following
2 members:

3 (1) six members, who shall not be members of the House, one each from
4 Addison, Chittenden, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Windham, and Windsor Counties,
5 who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

6 (2) six members, who shall not be members of the Senate, one each from
7 Caledonia, Essex, Franklin, Orange, Orleans, and Rutland Counties, who shall
8 be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

9 (3) one person, who shall be a member of the General Assembly, from
10 Washington County, to be appointed by the Governor;

11 (4) the State Historic Preservation Officer or designee;

12 (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society or
13 designee;

14 (6) the President of the Executive Board of Directors of the Bennington
15 Area Chamber of Commerce or designee; and

16 (7) the Executive Director of the Bennington Area Chamber of
17 Commerce or designee.

18 (c) Powers and duties. The Commission shall plan and sponsor events for
19 both the general public and the scholarly community commemorating the
20 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Vermont Declaration of Independence
21 and the first Vermont Constitution and the American victory at the Battle of

1 Bennington. In conducting its work, the Commission may consult and partner
2 with public and private sector organizations in Vermont and in other states.

3 (d) Report. On or before February 15, 2019, the Commission shall submit
4 a written report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on
5 Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on
6 Government Operations proposing a long-term budget, including an allocation
7 of State and private sector costs and an initial description of events that the
8 Commission may plan and sponsor.

9 (e) Meetings.

10 (1) The President of the Board of the Bennington Area Chamber of
11 Commerce shall call the first meeting of the Commission, to occur on or before
12 September 1, 2018.

13 (2) The Committee at its first meeting shall select a chair from among its
14 members.

15 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

16 (4) A member attending remotely may count toward the quorum and
17 cast a vote.

18 (5) The Commission shall not be limited to a specific number of
19 meetings. But it may not spend funds beyond the amount of the appropriation
20 provided for in subsection (g) of this section.

21 (6) The Commission shall cease to exist on December 31, 2027.

1 (f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Commission who
2 are not employees of the State of Vermont and are not otherwise reimbursed
3 for their attendance shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses, pursuant to
4 32 V.S.A. § 1010, to the extent funds appropriated for the Commission remain
5 available.

6 (g) Appropriations. The sum of \$2,000.00 is appropriated to the Vermont
7 250th Commission from the General Fund in fiscal year 2018 for
8 reimbursement of expenses for members of the Commission and for
9 miscellaneous administrative costs the Commission may incur.

10 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.