

SENATE, No. 2738

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 18, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Bateman

SYNOPSIS

Requires NJ Historical Commission to establish program for commemorations and observance of 250th anniversary of United States; permits commission to enter into public-private partnership agreement in preparation of anniversary; appropriates \$500,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/22/2018)

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1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Historical Commission
2 commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the
3 United States and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes
4 and making an appropriation.

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6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:

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9 1. a. The New Jersey Historical Commission shall formulate
10 and implement a program for the observance of the historical
11 aspects of the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United
12 States and of the first Constitution of this State, including but not
13 limited to: historical activities; the creation and publication of
14 historical documents and studies; cooperation with agencies
15 responsible for the preservation or restoration of historic sites,
16 buildings, art, and artifacts; establishing statewide wayfinding
17 signage for Revolutionary Era sites and markers and establishment
18 of a State American Revolution visitor center; the arrangement of
19 appropriate public ceremonies; planning for commemorative events,
20 supported by a comprehensive marketing and tourism campaign,
21 from calendar year 2024 through calendar year 2033; and the
22 dissemination of public information regarding New Jersey's
23 involvement in the American Revolution.

24 b. As part of the implementation of a program in accordance
25 with subsection a. of this section, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
26 before the Legislature as this bill), the commission may enter into a
27 contract with a private entity, to be referred to as a public-private
28 partnership agreement, to coordinate and plan the programs and
29 observance of the State's semiquincentennial celebration of the
30 founding of the United States, and to ensure that the State is
31 appropriately recognized for its role in the American Revolution. A
32 private entity will be eligible to enter into the public-private
33 partnership with the commission if:

34 (1) it is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization as defined in this
35 section; and

36 (2) it is responsible for the maintenance and administration of a
37 national heritage area dedicated to the history of the American
38 Revolution as it relates to New Jersey.

39 Any partnership agreement between the commission and a
40 private entity shall establish an advisory council to support and
41 guide the work of the partnership. The advisory council shall have
42 a leadership council dedicated to fundraising and policy comprised
43 of business and community leaders with a planning sub-committee
44 which includes regional representatives from the State's
45 Revolutionary War historical sites and heritage partners. In
46 addition to funds appropriated to the commission or the private
47 entity related to the commemoration of the semiquincentennial
48 anniversary of the founding of the United States, the advisory

1 council shall undertake fundraising efforts and seek out sources of
2 revenue for the partnership's commemoration of the 250th
3 anniversary of the founding of the United States. The advisory
4 council shall also develop collaborative activities with the Division
5 of Parks and Forestry and the Division of Travel and Tourism for
6 the planning and promotion of semiquincentennial programs and
7 activities.

8 c. Any partnership agreement entered into between the
9 commission and a private entity pursuant to this section,
10 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
11 shall expire no later than December 31, 2033.

12 d. As used in this act:

13 "Public-private partnership agreement" means an agreement
14 entered into by the New Jersey Historical Commission and a private
15 entity pursuant to subsection b. of this section,
16 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

17 "Tax-exempt nonprofit organization" means a nonprofit
18 organization that is exempt from federal taxation pursuant to
19 section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Code, 26 U.S.C.
20 s.501(c)(3).

21

22 2. Beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 and
23 ending in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, there shall be
24 appropriated from the General Fund on an annual basis \$500,000,
25 \$200,000 of which is to be dedicated to the New Jersey Historical
26 Commission for the purpose of supporting semiquincentennial
27 programs and staffing, and \$300,000 of which is to be dedicated to
28 the private entity that enters into the public-private partnership
29 agreement with the commission to make statewide upgrades to
30 historical sites, for staffing, and for efforts to undertake significant
31 capital improvements, in accordance with section 1 of
32 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

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34 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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39 This bill would require the New Jersey Historical Commission to
40 formulate and implement a program for the observance of the
41 historical aspects of the 250th anniversary of the independence of
42 the United States and of the first Constitution of this State. As part
43 of that program, the commission may enter into a public-private
44 partnership agreement with a private entity for the planning and
45 undertaking of semiquincentennial programs and activities to
46 commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United
47 States and New Jersey's significant role in the American
48 Revolution. New Jersey hosted more battles than any other state

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1 during the revolution, and George Washington spent much of his
2 time as Commander-in-Chief in the State.

3 A private entity would be eligible to enter into a public-private
4 partnership agreement with the commission if it is a tax-exempt
5 nonprofit organization, and it is responsible for the maintenance and
6 administration of a national heritage area dedicated to the history of
7 the American Revolution as it relates to New Jersey. The
8 agreement would include the creation of an advisory council to
9 guide the work of the commission and the private entity in the
10 planning of these celebrations and observations. This agreement
11 will ensure that New Jersey is adequately recognized for its
12 historical significance relating to the American Revolution.

13 To effectuate the purposes of this bill, \$500,000 would be
14 appropriated annually from the General Fund beginning in the fiscal
15 year ending June 30, 2019.