GENERAL ASSEMBLY
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

2016 REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 197

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016

The following joint resolution was reported to the Senate from the House and ordered to be printed.

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ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES
SECRETARY OF STATE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BY K. Allen

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, in 1788, Virginia issued enabling acts to allow Kentucky to petition
2 for statehood; and
3 WHEREAS, in April, 1792, another convention was held in Danville that resulted
4 in a ratified draft of Kentucky's first constitution, which was submitted to the United
5 States Congress, and on June 1, 1792, Kentucky was admitted to the Union as the nation's
6 fifteenth state; and
7 WHEREAS, from its beginnings, the promise of fertile soil, abundant natural
8 resources, a temperate climate, and unlimited opportunity drew people seeking a better
9 life;
10 NOW, THEREFORE,
11 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***
12 ➔Section 1. There is hereby created the Kentucky 225th Anniversary
13 Commission, which shall be attached to the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet for
14 administrative purposes. The commission shall be composed of fifteen (15) members, as
15 follows:
16 (1) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker
17 of the House;
18 (2) Two (2) members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;
19 (3) The Lieutenant Governor or designee;
20 (4) The First Lady of the Commonwealth of Kentucky or designee;
21 (5) The secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet or designee;
22 (6) The secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet or
23 designee;
24 (7) The executive director of the Kentucky Arts Council or designee;
25 (8) The chairperson of the Kentucky Heritage Council or designee;
26 (9) The executive director of the Kentucky Historical Society or designee;
27 (10) The executive director of the Kentucky Education Association or designee;

1 (11) The chief executive officer of Kentucky Education Television or designee;
2 (12) The president of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce or designee; and
3 (13) The chief executive officer of the Kentucky Travel Industry Association or
4 designee.
5 The chair of the commission shall be elected by the members from the membership of the
6 commission.
7 ➔Section 2. The Kentucky 225th Anniversary Commission shall:
8 (1) Study and recommend activities, programs, and educational events that may be
9 conducted throughout the Commonwealth in recognition and celebration of
10 Kentucky's 225th anniversary of statehood;
11 (2) Educate Kentucky's citizens and the nation about Kentucky's history;
12 (3) Serve as a coordinating point for information about various state, regional, and local
13 activities related to Kentucky's 225th anniversary;
14 (4) Recommend materials, programs, and activities to public agencies, schools, and
15 interested organizations related to Kentucky's history and its 225th anniversary; and
16 (5) Seek grants and philanthropic support for activities celebrating Kentucky's history
17 and its 225th anniversary.
18 ➔Section 3. The Kentucky 225th Anniversary Commission shall expire on June
19 30, 2017.

Speaker-House of Representatives

President of Senate

Attest: Chief Clerk of House of Representatives

Approved Governor

Date 13 APRIL 2016