

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8741

To establish the Philadelphia Campaign Two Hundred and Fiftieth
Commemoration Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 2026

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania introduced the following bill; which was referred
to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To establish the Philadelphia Campaign Two Hundred and
Fiftieth Commemoration Commission.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Philadelphia Campaign
5 Two Hundred and Fiftieth Commemoration Commission
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

9 (1) The Philadelphia Campaign of 1777–1778,
10 involving events in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Mary-

1 land and Delaware, was among the most significant
2 set of events in the American Revolution. It con-
3 vinced France to ally with the American cause and
4 resulted in the development of the continental army
5 into a professionally disciplined force.

6 (2) Along with the American victory at the
7 nearby battle of Saratoga, which occurred concu-
8 rently, the continental army's ability to fight
9 throughout the Philadelphia campaign, helped con-
10 vince France that the American side could win the
11 war. The French officially entered the war as Amer-
12 ican allies in February 1778.

13 (3) Following the French entry into the war,
14 the British retreated from Philadelphia in June
15 1778 to avoid a potential confrontation with the
16 French navy. The continental army was then able to
17 follow and engaged British forces at the Battle of
18 Monmouth.

19 (4) The Philadelphia campaign included tactical
20 losses for the American side, most notably America's
21 first September 11th at the Battle of Brandywine,
22 but the survival of the American force was a testa-
23 ment to General Washington's strategy and the sub-
24 sequent winter encampment at Valley Forge allowed
25 the army to be trained by Barron Von Steuben,

1 transforming it into a more professional and dis-
2 ciplined fighting force. Simultaneously the Philadel-
3 phia campaign highlighted weaknesses and missteps
4 by British commanders, particularly General William
5 Howe, and contributed to the understanding that
6 the British military could be defeated.

7 (5) The people of the United States can benefit
8 from gaining a deeper understanding and apprecia-
9 tion of the Philadelphia Campaign and the entire
10 early period of the American war for independence.

11 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
12 gress that the 250th anniversary of the Philadelphia Cam-
13 paign should be officially recognized.

14 **SEC. 3. PHILADELPHIA CAMPAIGN TWO HUNDRED AND FIF-**
15 **TIETH COMMEMORATION COMMISSION.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a com-
17 mission to be known as the Philadelphia Campaign Two
18 Hundred and Fiftieth Commemoration Commission (re-
19 ferred to in this Act as the “Commission”).

20 (b) DUTIES.—

21 (1) REPORT.—The Commission shall submit to
22 Congress a report on activities that the Commission
23 recommends be carried out by the Federal Govern-
24 ment to observe the 250th anniversary of the Phila-
25 delphia Campaign that—

1 (A) identifies any such activities that the
2 Commission considers most fitting and proper
3 to commemorate such anniversary; and

4 (B) includes any legislative proposals, in-
5 cluding any proposals for appropriations, re-
6 lated to such activities.

7 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In recommending ac-
8 tivities under the report required by paragraph (1),
9 the Commission shall consider whether to rec-
10 ommend that the Federal Government—

11 (A) acquire and preserve artifacts associ-
12 ated with the Philadelphia Campaign; or

13 (B) sponsor—

14 (i) a publicly available interactive dig-
15 ital resource the Philadelphia Campaign
16 that including scholarly work concerning
17 the Philadelphia Campaign;

18 (ii) conferences, exhibitions, or other
19 public meetings concerning the Philadel-
20 phia Campaign; or

21 (iii) nationally accessible educational
22 resources concerning the Philadelphia
23 Campaign.

24 (3) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—In preparing the
25 report under subsection (a), the Commission shall

1 consult with representatives of historical and cul-
2 tural institutions able to contribute the mission of
3 the Commission, including the following:

4 (A) Maryland Center for History and Cul-
5 ture.

6 (B) Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

7 (C) Salem County Historical Society.

8 (D) Chester County Historical Society.

9 (E) Brandywine Conservancy.

10 (F) Delaware Historical Society.

11 (4) COORDINATION.—The Commission—

12 (A) shall seek to encourage coordination
13 among State, local, international and private
14 sector entities with initiatives to commemorate
15 the 250th anniversary of the Philadelphia Cam-
16 paign; and

17 (B) acting through the Chief Executive Of-
18 ficer of the Museum of the American Revolution
19 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, establish a vol-
20 untary registry of such initiatives.

21 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

22 (1) APPOINTMENT.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
24 be composed of 14 voting members as follows:

25 (i) The Librarian of Congress.

1 (ii) The Chief Operating Officer of the
2 Museum of the American Revolution in
3 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

4 (iii) Twelve qualified citizens, ap-
5 pointed as follows:

6 (I) Two members appointed by
7 the President.

8 (II) Two members, at least one
9 of whom shall be a Senator, appointed
10 by the majority leader of the Senate.

11 (III) Two members appointed by
12 the President on the recommendation
13 of the Governor of the Commonwealth
14 of Pennsylvania.

15 (IV) Two members, at least one
16 of whom shall be a Senator, appointed
17 by the minority leader of the Senate.

18 (V) Two members, at least one of
19 whom shall be a Member of the House
20 of Representatives, appointed by the
21 Speaker of the House of Representa-
22 tives.

23 (VI) Two members, at least one
24 of whom shall be a Member of the
25 House of Representatives, appointed

1 by the minority leader of the House of
2 Representatives.

3 (B) TIME OF APPOINTMENT.—Each initial
4 appointment of a member of the Commission
5 shall be made before the expiration of the 60-
6 day period beginning on the date of the enact-
7 ment of this Act.

8 (C) CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If
9 a member of the Commission was appointed to
10 the Commission as a Member of the Congress,
11 and ceases to be a Member of the Congress,
12 that member may continue to serve on the
13 Commission for not longer than the 30-day pe-
14 riod beginning on the date on which that mem-
15 ber ceases to be a Member of the Congress.

16 (D) QUALIFIED CITIZEN.—In this sub-
17 section, the term “qualified citizen” means a
18 citizen of the United States with—

19 (i) a substantial knowledge and appre-
20 ciation of the history of the American war
21 for independence; and

22 (ii) a commitment to educating people
23 of the United States about the historical
24 importance of the Philadelphia Campaign

1 and the early years of the American Revo-
2 lution.

3 (2) ORGANIZATION.—

4 (A) HONORARY MEMBERS.—The Presi-
5 dent—

6 (i) shall serve as an honorary, non-
7 voting member of the Commission; and

8 (ii) may invite the President of
9 France and the Prime Minister of the
10 United Kingdom to serve as honorary,
11 nonvoting members of the Commission.

12 (B) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The
13 Commission shall seek to enter into an arrange-
14 ment with the Museum of the American Revolu-
15 tion in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for the Mu-
16 seum to provide to the Commission any admin-
17 istrative support as may be determined nec-
18 essary, including by providing administrative of-
19 fices for the Commission at the Museum.

20 (3) CHAIR.—The Commission shall select a vot-
21 ing member of the Commission to serve as the Chair
22 the Commission.

23 (4) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed
24 for the life of the Commission, except that a member
25 shall be removed from the Commission for malfea-

1 sance or dereliction of duty, as determined by a ma-
2 jority vote of the other members of the Commission.

3 (5) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission
4 shall not affect the powers of the Commission and
5 shall be filled in the manner in which the original
6 appointment was made.

7 (6) BASIC PAY.—Members shall serve on the
8 Commission without pay.

9 (7) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each voting member
10 shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in
11 lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable
12 provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title
13 5, United States Code.

14 (8) QUORUM.—Five voting members of the
15 Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser
16 number may hold hearings.

17 (9) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at
18 the call of the Chair.

19 **SEC. 4. POWERS.**

20 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission
21 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold such
22 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such
23 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission
24 considers appropriate.

1 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any vot-
2 ing member or agent of the Commission may, if authorized
3 by the Commission, take any action that the Commission
4 is authorized to take by this Act.

5 (c) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United
6 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
7 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United
8 States.

9 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
10 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of Gen-
11 eral Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reim-
12 bursable basis, any administrative support services nec-
13 essary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities
14 under this Act.

15 (e) PROCUREMENT.—The Commission may enter
16 into contracts for supplies, services, and facilities to carry
17 out the duties of the Commission under this Act.

18 (f) DONATIONS.—The Commission may accept and
19 use donations of—

- 20 (1) money; and
- 21 (2) personal services.

22 **SEC. 5. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**

23 (a) APPOINTMENT.—The Commission may appoint a
24 Director and such additional personnel as the Commission
25 considers to be appropriate.

1 (b) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE
2 LAWS.—The Director and staff of the Commission may
3 be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5,
4 United States Code, governing appointments in the com-
5 petitive service, and may be paid without regard to the
6 provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53
7 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule
8 pay rates.

9 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

10 (a) INTERIM REPORTS.—The Commission shall sub-
11 mit to Congress interim reports on the activities of the
12 Commission on the dates that are 6 months and 1 year
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

14 (b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than September 30,
15 2028, the Commission shall submit a final report to Con-
16 gress that contains—

17 (1) a detailed statement of all activities carried
18 out by the Commission preceding the submission of
19 the report; and

20 (2) any other information that the Commission
21 considers to be appropriate.

22 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION.**

23 The Commission shall terminate 120 days after the
24 final report is submitted to Congress pursuant to section
25 6(b).

1 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Com-
3 mission, \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2027 and \$2,500,000
4 for fiscal year 2028 to carry out this Act, to remain avail-
5 able until expended.

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