

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2006 SESSION

CHAPTER 465

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 40, consisting of sections numbered 30-266 through 30-274, relating to the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission and Fund; report.

[H 1440]

Approved March 31, 2006

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Virginia witnessed more American Civil War military engagements on its soil than any other state, hosts more historic sites related to the American Civil War than any other state, and is home to the Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, Tredegar National Civil War Center, and the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, all of which are nationally recognized centers of expertise in the study of the American Civil War; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 40, consisting of sections numbered 30-266 through 30-274, as follows:

CHAPTER 40.

VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION AND FUND.

§ 30-266. *Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission established; purpose.*

The Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission (the Commission) is established in the legislative branch of state government. The purpose of the Commission is to prepare for and commemorate the sesquicentennial of Virginia's participation in the American Civil War.

§ 30-267. *Membership; terms.*

The Commission shall have a total membership of 13 members that shall consist of 10 legislative members, two nonlegislative citizen members, and one ex officio member. Members shall be appointed as follows: six members of the House of Delegates, including the Speaker of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; four members of the Senate, including the President pro tempore of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; and two nonlegislative citizen members at large, one to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates and one to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. The President and Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia Historical Society or his designee shall serve ex officio with nonvoting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the Commission shall be citizens of the Commonwealth. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the Commission and the respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth for the purpose of attending meetings.

Legislative members and the ex officio member of the Commission shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office. Nonlegislative citizen members shall serve a term of four years. Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the unexpired terms. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. All members may be reappointed.

The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership, who shall be members of the General Assembly. The Commission may name five of its members to constitute an executive committee, of whom one shall be the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia Historical Society, which shall act for the Commission pursuant to its direction.

§ 30-268. *Advisory council.*

The Commission may appoint and establish an advisory council composed of nonlegislative citizens at large who have knowledge of American Civil War history and interest in its sesquicentennial celebration, to assist the Commission in its work. The Librarian of Virginia shall be a member of the advisory council.

§ 30-269. *Quorum; meetings; voting on recommendations.*

A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The meetings of the Commission shall be held at the call of the chairman or whenever a majority of the members so request.

No recommendation of the Commission shall be adopted if a majority of the House members or a majority of the Senate members appointed to the Commission (i) vote against the recommendation and (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the Commission.

§ 30-270. *Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission Fund established.*

There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission Fund, hereafter referred to as the "Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller and shall consist of gifts, grants, donations,

bequests, or other funds from any source as may be received by the Commission for its work. Moneys shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purpose of enabling the Commission to perform its duties. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request of the chairman of the Commission.

§ 30-271. Compensation; expenses.

Legislative members of the Commission shall receive such compensation as provided in § 30-19.12, and nonlegislative citizen members shall receive such compensation for the performance of their duties as provided in § 2.2-2813. All members shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. However, all such compensation and expenses shall be paid from existing appropriations to the Commission, or, if unfunded, shall be approved by the Joint Rules Committee. All nonlegislative citizen members of the advisory council of the Commission shall serve without compensation; however, all such members shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825, from such funds as may be appropriated to the Commission.

The Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, grants, donations, bequests, or other funds or real or personal property for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission. In accordance with the appropriation act, the Commission may procure supplies, services, and property, and make or enter into contracts, leases, or other legal agreements as it may deem necessary to carry out its duties as set forth in this chapter. No contract, lease, or other legal agreement shall be entered into by the Commission that extends beyond the date of expiration of the Commission.

§ 30-272. Powers and duties of the Commission.

The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War;
2. Encourage interdisciplinary examination of the American Civil War;
3. Facilitate balanced activities related to the American Civil War throughout Virginia;
4. Encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, and other organizations throughout Virginia to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the American Civil War;
5. Provide technical assistance to localities and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War;
6. Develop programs and facilities to ensure that the sesquicentennial commemoration of the American Civil War results in a positive legacy and long-term public benefit;
7. Encourage the development and conduct of programs designed to involve all citizens in activities that commemorate the American Civil War; and
8. Submit to the General Assembly and the Governor an annual report for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports. The chairman of the Commission shall submit to the General Assembly and the Governor an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Commission no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

§ 30-273. Staffing.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support to the Commission. The Center for Virginia History of the Virginia Historical Society shall provide technical assistance to the Commission, and all agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission, upon request.

§ 30-274. Sunset.

This chapter shall expire on July 1, 2015.

- 2. That, upon the expiration of the first term on July 1, 2010, of nonlegislative citizen members appointed to the Commission, such members may be reappointed for a term of five years to expire on July 1, 2015.**
- 3. For its first year of existence, if the Commission is not funded by a separate appropriation in the appropriation act, the Commission may be funded from the operating budgets of the Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Clerk of the Senate upon the approval of the Joint Rules Committee. If the Commission is not funded by a separate appropriation in the appropriation act for any year thereafter, this chapter shall expire on July 1 of the fiscal year that the Commission fails to receive such funding.**