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**HOUSE BILL NO. 400**

Offered January 13, 2010

Prefiled January 12, 2010

*A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 49, consisting of sections numbered 30-319 through 30-325, relating to the Virginia Commission on the Centennial of the Woodrow Wilson Presidency; report.*

Patrons—Bell, Richard P.; Senator: Hanger

Referred to Committee on Rules

**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 49, consisting of sections numbered 30-319 through 30-325, as follows:**

**CHAPTER 49.****VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON THE CENTENNIAL OF THE WOODROW WILSON PRESIDENCY.**

*§ 30-319. The Virginia Commission on the Centennial of the Woodrow Wilson Presidency; purpose.*

*The Virginia Commission on the Centennial of the Woodrow Wilson Presidency is established in the legislative branch of state government for the purpose of planning, developing, and implementing statewide appropriate programs and events to commemorate the centennial of President Woodrow Wilson's election and presidency.*

*§ 30-320. Membership; terms; quorum; meetings.*

*The Commission shall have a total membership of 11 members that shall consist of eight legislative members and three nonlegislative citizen members. Members shall be appointed as follows: five members 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; three members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; and three nonlegislative citizen members of whom one shall be a Virginia resident who is a direct descendant of President Woodrow Wilson, one shall be the president of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library or his designee to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and one shall be a Woodrow Wilson scholar in the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. Nonlegislative citizen members of the Commission shall be citizens of the Commonwealth.*

*Legislative members and ex officio members of the Commission shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office.*

*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.*

*No House member shall serve more than four consecutive two-year terms; no Senate member shall serve more than two consecutive four-year terms; no nonlegislative citizen member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates or the Senate Committee on Rules shall serve more than four consecutive two-year terms. The remainder of any term to which a member is appointed to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a term in determining the member's eligibility for reappointment.*

*The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership who shall be members of the General Assembly. 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 the majority of the members so request.*

*§ 30-321. Virginia Commission on the Centennial of the Woodrow Wilson Presidency Fund established.*

*There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Virginia Commission on the Centennial of the Woodrow Wilson Presidency 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 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.*

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59 § 30-322. *Compensation; expenses.*

60 *Legislative members of the Commission shall receive such compensation as provided in § 30-19.12,*  
61 *and nonlegislative citizen members shall receive such compensation for the performance of their duties*  
62 *as provided in § 2.2-2813. All members shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses*  
63 *incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. Funding for the*  
64 *costs of compensation and expenses of the members shall be paid from existing appropriations to the*  
65 *Commission, or if unfunded, shall be approved by the Joint Rules Committee.*

66 § 30-323. *Powers and duties of the Commission.*

67 *The Virginia Commission on the Centennial of the Woodrow Wilson Presidency shall have the*  
68 *following powers and duties:*

69 1. *Plan, develop, coordinate, and implement statewide programs, events, and activities appropriate to*  
70 *commemorate the centennial of Woodrow Wilson's election and presidency from 1912 through 1921.*

71 2. *Appoint and establish an Advisory Council composed of nonlegislative citizens at large who have*  
72 *demonstrated knowledge and expertise concerning the life, presidency, and legacy of Woodrow Wilson;*  
73 *have an interest in the centennial of his election and presidency; and agree to serve in a voluntary*  
74 *capacity. Members of the Advisory Council shall serve without compensation or reimbursement for*  
75 *expenses as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825.*

76 3. *Seek, receive, and expend gifts, grants, donations, bequests, or other funds from any source to*  
77 *support the work of the Commission, implement plans for the centennial commemoration, and facilitate*  
78 *the objectives of this chapter.*

79 4. *Promote and encourage research and scholarship on and an interdisciplinary examination of (i)*  
80 *the life, presidency, contributions, and legacy of Woodrow Wilson and (ii) the historical importance of*  
81 *his presidency to the American presidency, scholarship, international and domestic relations, and*  
82 *political and social systems.*

83 5. *Offer educational and cultural opportunities to increase historical literacy of the Woodrow Wilson*  
84 *election and presidency, highlight significant events and achievements during his administrations, and*  
85 *assess the effect of his presidency on contemporary society.*

86 6. *Encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, and other organizations throughout Virginia to*  
87 *organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance*  
88 *of Woodrow Wilson's election and presidency.*

89 7. *Identify and implement various means to increase public knowledge and awareness of Woodrow*  
90 *Wilson, including ways to memorialize and preserve his history and legacy in Virginia, particularly*  
91 *among children and young adults throughout the Commonwealth.*

92 8. *Promote the development and conduct of programs designed to involve all citizens in activities*  
93 *that commemorate the centennial of Woodrow Wilson's election and presidency.*

94 9. *Seek the assistance and collaboration of diverse organizations and interested parties, in Virginia*  
95 *and out of state, with expertise or experience in order to facilitate the Commission's work.*

96 10. *Submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual report for publication as a report*  
97 *document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the*  
98 *processing of legislative documents and reports. The chairman shall submit to the Governor and the*  
99 *General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Commission no*  
100 *later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall*  
101 *be submitted for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of*  
102 *Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be*  
103 *posted on the General Assembly's website.*

104 11. *Perform such other duties, functions, and activities as the Commission deems necessary to*  
105 *facilitate and implement the objectives of this chapter.*

106 § 30-324. *Staffing.*

107 *The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support to the Commission. All agencies of*  
108 *the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission, upon request.*

109 § 30-325. *Sunset.*

110 *This chapter shall expire on July 1, 2014.*

111 **2. That for the 2010, 2011, and 2012 interims, the Commission may be funded from the operating**  
112 **budgets of the Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Clerk of the Senate upon the approval of**  
113 **the Joint Rules Committee. If the Commission is not funded by a separate appropriation in the**  
114 **appropriation act for the 2012 - 2014 biennium, this chapter shall expire on July 1 of the fiscal**  
115 **year that the Commission fails to receive such funding.**