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HOUSE BILL NO. 1424

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rules
on February 28, 2020)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Krizek)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 25 of Title 2.2 an article numbered 11, consisting of sections numbered 2.2-2544 through 2.2-2550, relating to the American Revolution 250 Commission; report.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 25 of Title 2.2 an article numbered 11, consisting of sections numbered 2.2-2544 through 2.2-2550, as follows:

Article 11.

American Revolution 250 Commission.

§ 2.2-2544. American Revolution 250 Commission; purpose.

The American Revolution 250 Commission (the Commission) is established as an advisory commission within the executive branch of state government.

The purpose of the Commission is to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the independence of the United States.

§ 2.2-2545. Membership; terms; quorum; meetings.

A. The Commission shall have a total membership of 26 members that shall consist of four legislative members, 17 nonlegislative citizen members, and five ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows:

1. Two members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules;

2. Two 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;

3. One representative from each of the lead commemoration partners: the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, the primary state agency and fiscal agent; the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, the primary nonstate agency; and Gunston Hall, the primary representative of Virginia's historic homes and related sites;

4. One representative from the American Battlefield Trust, the secretariat of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, and one representative from the Virginia Bar Association;

5. Six members appointed by the Governor from a list of 10 provided by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation; and

6. Six members appointed by the Governor from a list of 10 provided by the Virginia Museum of History & Culture.

The Secretary of Education, the Librarian of Virginia, the Director of the Department of Historic Resources, the Executive Director of Virginia Humanities, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia Tourism Authority, or their designees, shall serve as ex officio members with voting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the Commission shall be citizens of the Commonwealth.

B. The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from among its membership.

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

§ 2.2-2546. Quorum; meetings.

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

§ 2.2-2547. Compensation; expenses.

Legislative members of the Commission shall receive such compensation as provided in § 30-19.12. Nonlegislative citizen members of the Commission shall not receive compensation or reimbursement for travel and other expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Compensation to members of the General Assembly for attendance at official meetings of the Commission shall be paid by the offices of the Clerk of the House of Delegates or Clerk of the Senate, as applicable.

§ 2.2-2548. Powers and duties of the Commission.

The Commission shall have the power and duty to:

1. Formulate and implement a program for the inclusive observance of the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States and the Revolutionary War in Virginia, including (i) civic, cultural,

60 and historical education and scholarship concerning the ideals of the American Revolution and their
61 contemporary relevance; (ii) visitation of museums and historic sites, including battlefields; (iii) creation
62 and publication of historical documents and studies; (iv) cooperation with agencies responsible for the
63 preservation or restoration of historic sites, buildings, art, and artifacts; (v) establishment of exhibitions
64 and interpretive and wayfinding signage; (vi) arrangement of appropriate public ceremonies; (vii) a
65 comprehensive marketing and tourism campaign encompassing calendar year 2025 through calendar
66 year 2026; and (viii) the general dissemination of public information regarding Virginia's involvement in
67 the American Revolution and its legacy today;

68 2. Submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim
69 activity and work of the Commission no later than the first day of each regular session of the General
70 Assembly;

71 3. Solicit, accept, use, and dispose of funds appropriated by the General Assembly and any gifts,
72 grants, donations, bequests, or other funds received by the Commission for the purpose of aiding or
73 facilitating its work;

74 4. Appoint and establish an advisory council, to be led by the Commission member representing
75 Gunston Hall, composed of nonlegislative citizen members at large who have a knowledge of relevant
76 history or expertise in areas useful to the work of the Commission, including a representative of the
77 Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, a representative of the Virginia Daughters of
78 the American Revolution, and a representative of the National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary
79 Route Association. The advisory council shall make recommendations and provide comment as requested
80 by the Commission. The Commission may from time to time appoint, add, or remove members of the
81 advisory council. Members of the advisory council shall serve without compensation or reimbursement;
82 and

83 5. Appoint and establish an executive committee composed of members of the Commission, to include
84 the Commission's chair and vice-chair and one representative designated by each of the following: the
85 Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, and Gunston Hall.

86 6. Perform such other duties, functions, and activities as may be necessary to facilitate and
87 implement the objectives of the Commission

88 **§ 2.2-2549. Cooperation of agencies of state and local government.**

89 The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation will be the primary state agency and fiscal agent for the
90 commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. All agencies of the Commonwealth
91 and local governments are authorized, consistent with their missions, to provide assistance and advice to
92 the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, or directly to the Commission, in fulfilling all things necessary
93 and proper to plan for and implement the commemoration. The various agencies and institutions of the
94 Commonwealth, upon request of the Commission and approval of the respective agency head, shall
95 designate a liaison to coordinate assistance and services to the Commission from their agencies and
96 institutions.

97 **§ 2.2-2550. Sunset.**

98 This article shall expire on July 1, 2027.

99 2. That during the first year of its existence the American Revolution 250 Commission (the
100 Commission) shall be limited to two meetings, which shall be convened by the Secretary of
101 Education, for the purpose of developing a work plan for the Commission. Such work plan shall
102 include information related to staffing and proposed internal organizational structure and funding
103 needs. The Secretary shall submit a report on his findings regarding the work plan, including any
104 recommendations, to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 30, 2020.