

AN ACT relating to military affairs.

WHEREAS, the War of 1812, in the Old Northwest Territory, was fought in large part by Kentucky militiamen, predecessors of today's Kentucky National Guard; and

WHEREAS, during the War of 1812, Kentucky furnished a total of 40 regiments of volunteer militia, as well as a number of battalions and separate companies, totaling more than 25,000 men; and

WHEREAS, these brave men who served their nation deserve to have their service and sacrifice remembered; and

WHEREAS, Americans killed in action during the war totaled 2,260, of which approximately 1,200 were from Kentucky and many of their remains were never recovered nor their final resting places properly marked; and

WHEREAS, not only did Kentucky provide the bulk of men to prosecute the war, but Kentucky caves, Mammoth Cave in particular, were nearly the only source of nitrate used to make gunpowder for the war after England placed an embargo on the United States at the outbreak of the war; and

WHEREAS, June 1, 2012, will mark the 200th Anniversary of the declaration of war that officially began the War of 1812; and

WHEREAS, efforts are underway in the United States Congress, many states, and in Canada to plan for the commemoration of the War of 1812; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the Commonwealth of Kentucky to plan and carry out its own commemoration of the War of 1812, and to coordinate those activities with those of the federal government;

NOW, THEREFORE,

***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 171 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

***(1) There is created the Commonwealth of Kentucky War of 1812 Bicentennial***

Commission, which shall be attached to the Kentucky Historical Society for administrative purposes.

(2) The Commonwealth of Kentucky War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission shall be composed of twenty (20) members, as follows:

(a) Two (2) members of the Kentucky House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(b) Two (2) members of the Kentucky Senate, appointed by the President of the Kentucky Senate;

(c) The adjutant general, or the adjutant general's designee;

(d) The secretary of the Education Cabinet, or the secretary's designee;

(e) The secretary of the Commerce Cabinet, or the secretary's designee;

(f) The secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, or the secretary's designee;

(g) One (1) member from the Kentucky Historical Society, appointed by the director of that agency;

(h) One (1) member from the Kentucky Heritage Council, appointed by the executive director of that agency;

(i) One (1) member from the Kentucky African-American Heritage Commission, appointed by the head of that agency;

(j) One (1) member from the Kentucky Humanities Council, appointed by the executive director of that agency;

(k) One (1) member from the Kentucky Native American Commission, appointed by the head of that agency; and

(l) Seven (7) citizen members from the state at large with a demonstrated interest in history and substantial knowledge and appreciation of the War of 1812, appointed by the Governor.

(3) The chair of the commission shall be elected by the members of the commission.

- (4) The first meeting of the commission shall be held no later than December 31, 2009. The commission shall meet at least biannually thereafter.
- (5) The commission may create an advisory board of persons with a demonstrated interest in various aspects of the War of 1812.
- (6) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, except that they may be reimbursed reasonable and necessary travel expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties, subject to administrative regulations promulgated by the Finance and Administration Cabinet.
- (7) The Commonwealth of Kentucky War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission shall expire on December 31, 2015.

➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 171 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

The Commonwealth of Kentucky War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission shall:

- (1) Study and recommend activities that may be carried out by the Commonwealth to honor the Kentuckians that served in the War of 1812;
- (2) Educate Kentucky residents and the nation about Kentucky's role in the War of 1812;
- (3) Assist local governments and organizations with planning, preparation, and grant applications for bicentennial events and projects;
- (4) Coordinate federal, state, and local bicentennial activities occurring in Kentucky;
- (5) Plan and implement appropriate events, including celebrations and educational initiatives, to commemorate the bicentennial;
- (6) Perform other duties as necessary to highlight Kentucky's role in the War of 1812;
- (7) Coordinate with the governments of the United States, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Louisiana, and Ontario, Canada and other states and countries commemorating the War of 1812 Bicentennial as deemed appropriate by the

*commission; and*

*(8) Seek federal grants and philanthropic support for bicentennial activities.*