

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 53

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHNELTING.

0605H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

## AN ACT

To amend chapter 161, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the patriotism advisory commission.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 161, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 161.710, to read as follows:

**161.710. 1. There is hereby established the "Governor's Patriotism Advisory Commission" within the department of elementary and secondary education. The commission shall promote the implementation of education and awareness programs in this state to better enable a rising generation to understand the history and principles of the founding of the United States in the year 1776 and to strive "to form a more perfect Union".**

**2. The commission shall:**

**(1) Produce a report for the governor regarding the core principles of the American founding and how these principles may be understood to further enjoyment of "the blessings of liberty" and to promote our striving "to form a more perfect Union". The commission may solicit statements and contributions from intellectual and cultural figures in addition to the views of the commission members. The report shall be completed and publicly disseminated before August 28, 2022;**

**(2) Facilitate the development and implementation of a "Governor's Patriot Award" to recognize student knowledge of the American founding, including knowledge about the Founders, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitutional Convention, and the great soldiers and battles of the American Revolutionary War;**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18           **(3) Advise state departments and agencies with regard to efforts of the departments**  
19 **and agencies to ensure patriotic education is provided to the public at state parks,**  
20 **battlefields, monuments, museums, installations, landmarks, cemeteries, and other places**  
21 **important to the American Revolution and the American founding as appropriate and**  
22 **consistent with applicable law. As used in this subdivision, "patriotic education" means**  
23 **the presentation of the history of the American founding and foundational principles, the**  
24 **examination of how the United States has grown closer to those principles throughout its**  
25 **history, and the explanation of why commitment to America's aspirations is beneficial and**  
26 **justified;**

27           **(4) Advise state departments and agencies on prioritizing the American founding**  
28 **in state grants and initiatives and as appropriate and consistent with applicable law; and**

29           **(5) Facilitate, advise upon, and promote other activities to support public**  
30 **knowledge and patriotic education on the American Revolution and the American**  
31 **founding as appropriate and consistent with applicable law.**

32           **3. The commission shall be composed of seven members appointed by the governor**  
33 **and shall meet within one hundred twenty days after the members are appointed. The**  
34 **governor shall select a chair and a vice chair from among the members. The members of**  
35 **the commission shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement**  
36 **for travel expenses incurred in the performance of official duties.**

37           **4. An executive director appointed by the governor shall coordinate the work of the**  
38 **commission. The chair and vice chair shall cooperate with the executive director to**  
39 **convene regular meetings of the commission, determine the commission's agenda, and**  
40 **direct the commission's work consistent with this section.**

41           **5. The department of elementary and secondary education shall provide funding**  
42 **and administrative support for the commission to the extent permitted by law and subject**  
43 **to the availability of appropriations.**

44           **6. The commission shall terminate on August 28, 2023, unless extended by the**  
45 **governor.**

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