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State of Minnesota  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**EIGHTY-FIFTH  
SESSION**

**HOUSE FILE No. 2135**

March 15, 2007

Authored by Loeffler, Solberg, Lanning, Erickson, Urdahl and others

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology and Elections

March 27, 2007

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass

Read Second Time

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission; changing certain duties,  
1.3 powers, and procedures; amending Laws 2005, First Special Session chapter 1,  
1.4 article 4, section 121.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Laws 2005, First Special Session chapter 1, article 4, section 121, is  
1.7 amended to read:

1.8 Sec. 121. **SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION.**

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Commission; purpose.** The Minnesota Sesquicentennial  
1.10 Commission is established to plan for activities relating to Minnesota's 150th anniversary  
1.11 of statehood. The commission shall create a plan for ~~capital improvements~~, celebratory  
1.12 activities; and public engagement in every county in the state of Minnesota.

1.13 Subd. 2. **Membership.** The commission shall consist of 17 members who shall  
1.14 serve until the completion of the sesquicentennial year of statehood, appointed as follows:

1.15 (1) nine members appointed by the governor, representing major corporate,  
1.16 nonprofit, and public sectors of the state, selected from all parts of the state;

1.17 (2) two members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

1.18 (3) two members appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives;

1.19 (4) two members from the majority party in the senate, appointed by the  
1.20 Subcommittee on Committees; and

1.21 (5) two members from the minority party in the senate, appointed by the  
1.22 Subcommittee on Committees.

1.23 Subd. 3. **Compensation; operation.** Members shall select a chair from the  
1.24 membership of the commission. The chair shall convene all meetings and set the agenda

2.1 for the commission. The Minnesota Historical Society shall provide office space and staff  
2.2 support for the commission, and shall cooperate with the University of Minnesota and  
2.3 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to support the programs of the commission.  
2.4 Meetings shall be at the call of the chair. The commission may appoint an advisory  
2.5 council to advise and assist the commission with its duties. Members shall receive no  
2.6 compensation for service on the Sesquicentennial Commission. Members appointed by  
2.7 the governor may be reimbursed for expenses under Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059,  
2.8 subdivision 3.

2.9 Subd. 4. **Duties.** The commission shall have the following duties:

2.10 (1) to present to the governor and legislature a plan for ~~capital~~ grants to pay for  
2.11 capital improvements on Minnesota's historic public and private buildings, to be known as  
2.12 sesquicentennial grants;

2.13 (2) to seek funding for activities to celebrate the 150th anniversary of statehood, and  
2.14 to form partnerships with private parties to further this mission; and

2.15 (3) to present an annual report to the governor and legislature outlining progress  
2.16 made towards the celebration of the sesquicentennial.

2.17 Subd. 4a. **Powers.** (a) The commission may accept gifts, grants, and other donations  
2.18 and revenues, either in cash or in-kind. These gifts, grants, and donations are accepted on  
2.19 behalf of the state and constitute donations to the state of Minnesota. Funds received under  
2.20 this subdivision are appropriated to the commission for the purpose of commemorating  
2.21 the Minnesota sesquicentennial.

2.22 (b) The commission may enter into contracts and award grants to carry out its  
2.23 purposes.

2.24 Subd. 4b. **Meetings.** (a) If compliance with Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.02, is  
2.25 impractical, the commission may conduct a meeting of its members by telephone or other  
2.26 electronic means so long as the following conditions are met:

2.27 (1) all members of the commission participating in the meeting, wherever their  
2.28 physical location, can hear one another and can hear all discussion and testimony;

2.29 (2) all members of the public present at the regular meeting location can clearly hear  
2.30 all discussion and testimony and all votes of members;

2.31 (3) at least one member of the commission is physically present at the regular  
2.32 meeting location; and

2.33 (4) all votes committing funds, finalizing recommendations, and approving contracts  
2.34 are conducted by roll call, so each member's vote on each issue can be identified and  
2.35 recorded.

3.1           (b) Each member of the commission participating in a meeting by telephone or  
3.2 other electronic means is considered present at the meeting for purposes of determining  
3.3 a quorum and participating in all proceedings. If telephone or other electronic means is  
3.4 used to conduct a meeting, the commission, to the extent practical, shall allow a person to  
3.5 monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location. The commission may require  
3.6 the person making such a connection to pay for documented marginal costs that the  
3.7 commission incurs as a result of the additional connection. If telephone or other electronic  
3.8 means is used to conduct a regular, special, or emergency meeting, the commission  
3.9 shall provide notice of the regular meeting location, of the fact that some members may  
3.10 participate by telephone or other electronic means, and of whether and how a person may  
3.11 monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location. The timing and method of  
3.12 providing notice is governed by Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.04.

3.13           Subd. 5. **Commemorative coin.** The commission may arrange for design,  
3.14 production, distribution, marketing, and sale of a commemorative coin. Proceeds from  
3.15 sale of the commemorative coin are appropriated to the commission.

3.16           Subd. 6. **Expiration.** The commission shall continue to operate until January 30,  
3.17 2009, at which time it shall expire.

3.18           **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.