



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

2000 MAIN STREET, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA 92648-2702

GRACEY VAN DER MARK
MAYOR

May 8, 2024

The Honorable Janet Nguyen
California State Senate
1020 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1214 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Nguyen,

On behalf of the City of Huntington Beach, I write to express our support for SB 1214, which will form a commission to organize the celebration of our Country's 250th anniversary.

Huntington Beach's first Fourth of July parade was held in 1904 to mark the first electric passenger train connecting the area to Los Angeles and Long Beach. Since that time, the parade has grown to be the largest in the United States and attracts an average of 500,000 attendees every year.

We anticipate the parade for the Semiquincentennial to be spectacular and believe a commission to coordinate the celebrations happening throughout the State is much needed.

It is for these reasons we support your SB 1214 and commend your efforts on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Gracey Van Der Mark
Mayor

Cc: Huntington Beach City Council

Introduced by Senator Nguyen**(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Dahle, Grove, Newman, Niello, Seyarto, and Wilk)****(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alanis, Dixon, Gallagher, and Muratsuchi)**February 15, 2024

An act to add and repeal Chapter 7.5 (commencing with Section 6750) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, relating to the California Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1214, as introduced, Nguyen. California Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial.

Existing law establishes various commissions within state government.

This bill would, until January 1, 2029, establish the California Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial in state government to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States of America. The bill would require the commission to plan and coordinate commemorations and observances of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution. The bill would require the commission to be solely supported by private or federal funds made available for the purpose of supporting the commission. The bill would require that these funds be deposited in the Semiquincentennial Fund, and would create that fund in the State Treasury. The bill would require funds in the Semiquincentennial Fund to be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, as specified. The bill would require the records, files, and other memoranda of the commission, other than any private possessions, to be deposited and

filed with the State Archives on or before June 30, 2028, and would require the State Archives to receive those materials. These provisions would become operative only if the Treasurer determines that sufficient private or federal funds have been made available.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:
- 3 (a) The year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the signing
4 of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United
5 States of America.
- 6 (b) The founding of the United States is one of the most
7 significant and providential events in human history and should
8 be celebrated accordingly.
- 9 (c) The United States Semiquincentennial Commission was
10 established by Congress to inspire each and every American to
11 participate in our greatest milestone ever, the 250th anniversary
12 of the founding of the United States.
- 13 (d) The United States Semiquincentennial Commission will
14 coordinate the commemoration and observance of the 250th
15 anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and American
16 Revolution, and is charged with orchestrating the largest and most
17 inclusive anniversary observance in our nation's history.
- 18 (e) The United States Semiquincentennial Commission consists
19 of 8 members of Congress, 16 private citizens, and 9 federal
20 officials, including the Secretary of State, Librarian of Congress,
21 and Archivist of the United States.
- 22 (f) The United States Semiquincentennial Commission has
23 encouraged states to establish state-level commissions to help plan
24 and coordinate activities within each state celebrating the 250th
25 anniversary of the nation's founding.
- 26 (g) California has a unique history through its relationship with
27 Spain, an ally of the Americans during the American Revolution.
- 28 (h) California is home to hundreds of thousands of descendants
29 of the men and women who actively participated in the American
30 Revolution and the founding of the United States.

1 SEC. 2. Chapter 7.5 (commencing with Section 6750) is added
2 to Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, to read:

3
4 CHAPTER 7.5. CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON THE UNITED
5 STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL
6

7 6750. (a) The California Commission on the United States
8 Semiquincentennial is hereby established in state government to
9 plan and coordinate commemorations and observances of the 250th
10 anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the American
11 Revolution.

12 (b) The commission shall be composed of 11 members as
13 follows:

14 (1) The State Archivist, who shall serve as chairperson.

15 (2) Two members of the California State Assembly shall be
16 appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

17 (3) Two members of the California State Senate shall be
18 appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

19 (4) One member of the general public shall be appointed by the
20 Speaker of the Assembly.

21 (5) One member of the general public shall be appointed by the
22 Senate Committee on Rules.

23 (6) Three members of the general public shall be appointed by
24 the Governor.

25 (7) One member shall be appointed by the State Archivist from
26 a list of individuals with relevant historical experience proposed
27 by the California Historical Society.

28 (c) Members appointed to the commission pursuant to
29 subdivision (b) shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing
30 authority.

31 (d) (1) The commission shall be solely supported by private
32 funds or funds made available by the federal government for the
33 purpose of supporting the commission.

34 (2) The funds specified in paragraph (1) shall be deposited in
35 the Semiquincentennial Fund, which is hereby created in the State
36 Treasury. Funds in the Semiquincentennial Fund shall be available,
37 upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the express purpose of
38 this chapter.

39 (e) On or before June 30, 2028, the records, files, and other
40 memoranda of the commission, other than any private possessions,

1 shall be deposited and filed with the State Archives, which shall
2 receive those materials.

3 (f) This section shall become operative only if the Treasurer
4 determines that sufficient private or federal funds, as described in
5 paragraph (1) of subdivision (d), have been made available.

6 6751. This chapter shall remain in effect only until January 1,
7 2029, and as of that date is repealed.