

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB275

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 03, 2021
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Brewer
One Liner: Create the Semiquincentennial Commission

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Blood, Brewer, Halloran, Hansen, M., Hunt, Lowe, McCollister, Sanders

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Tom Brewer
Trevor Jones

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska State Historical Society

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

This bill would create a commission to develop programs and plans for the official observance of the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United States as marked by the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The commission's activities would include interfacing with state and national organizations involved in similar efforts, as well as cooperating with the United States Semiquincentennial Commission and federal, state, and local political entities.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment, AM 187, creates a fund to be used by the Semiquincentennial Commission to receive legislative appropriations, gifts, grants, and donations from other sources, and provides a timeline for transferring any remaining unobligated balance to the Historical Society Fund on June 1, 2027. The fund would terminate on June 30, 2027.

AM 187 also adds the director of the Nebraska State Historical Society or the director's designee as chairperson of the Commission. It also provides that the governor shall be presented with a list of five candidates instead of only three candidates for certain members of the commission membership to avoid a possible violation of the provisions of Neb. Const. Art. IV, Sec. 10.

The amendment removes references to congressional districts as they existed at the beginning of 2021. This would mean

that if redistricting is completed before the governor's appointment of commission members, the new congressional districts in effect at that time would be used.

Finally, the committee amendment provides that commission members should receive no compensation except expense reimbursement.

Tom Brewer, Chairperson