

1 AN ACT establishing a commission to celebrate the sestercentennial anniversary of
2 Harrodsburg.

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

4 WHEREAS, Harrodsburg was founded on June 16, 1774, by settlers led by James
5 Harrod; and

6 WHEREAS, Harrodsburg was the first permanent pioneer settlement west of the
7 Allegheny Mountains; and

8 WHEREAS, Old Fort Harrod State Park was established in 1927 to memorialize
9 these intrepid pioneers; and

10 WHEREAS, Old Fort Harrod State Park has been a vital contributor to the
11 community and economy of Harrodsburg and Mercer County as a whole; and

12 WHEREAS, it is vital to preserve the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in
13 order to educate future generations of Kentuckians; and

14 WHEREAS, the years 1774 to 1776 were critical to the founding of the
15 Commonwealth of Kentucky, the creation of the Declaration of Independence, and the
16 formation of United States of America; and

17 WHEREAS, Kentuckians contributed so much to the American Revolution with
18 many Kentuckians heeding the call to arms to help secure our independence from Great
19 Britain; and

20 WHEREAS, the town of Harrodsburg, the first permanent English settlement west
21 of the Allegheny Mountains, was first settled in 1774 and will celebrate 250 years of
22 history in 2024;

23 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

25 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 148 IS CREATED TO
26 READ AS FOLLOWS:

27 **(1) As used in this section:**

1 (a) "Commission" means the Harrodsburg Sestercentennial Commission
2 established in subsection (2) of this section; and

3 (b) "Sestercentennial" means the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the
4 founding of Harrodsburg on June 16, 1774.

5 (2) The Harrodsburg Sestercentennial Commission is hereby established to plan
6 encourage, develop, and coordinate events and other activities related to the two
7 hundred fiftieth anniversary of Harrodsburg in 2024. To accomplish its charge,
8 the commission shall:

9 (a) Ensure that adequate way-finding signage and mapping is accomplished to
10 mark and identify Old Fort Harrod State Park;

11 (b) Educate citizens of the Commonwealth and the nation about the stories of
12 pioneers and Native Americans in the early days of westward settlement and
13 the impact Harrodsburg and settlements of its nature had on Kentucky and
14 American history;

15 (c) Plan and implement events for a year-long sestercentennial
16 commemoration in the year 2024 of the founding of Harrodsburg and
17 whatever events in the immediately preceding and following years are
18 deemed appropriate by the commission, including any battlefield
19 commemorations if funds are available;

20 (d) Assist local governments and their representatives with planning,
21 preparation, and grant applications for sestercentennial events and projects;

22 (e) Coordinate federal, state, local, and nonprofit organizations'
23 sestercentennial activities occurring in Kentucky;

24 (f) Coordinate events and activities with parties, commissions, and
25 organizations wishing to participate in the 2024 commemoration;

26 (g) Act as a point of contact for national organizations wishing to distribute
27 information to state and local groups about grant opportunities, meetings,

- 1 and national events related to the settlement of Harrodsburg and
2 sestercentennial activities;
- 3 (h) Seek funding sources such as foundations, line items, federal grants,
4 philanthropic organizations, and lineage societies;
- 5 (i) Create press, print, and electronic contacts that generate stories on a
6 continual basis;
- 7 (j) Encourage and contract new publications and create a call for papers on
8 Harrodsburg, Fort Harrod, James Harrod, or other participating or
9 involved parties, and how the history of this early frontier settlement
10 impacted American history;
- 11 (k) Organize symposiums and other methodologies to investigate genealogy
12 relative to Harrodsburg;
- 13 (l) Create higher and lower educational programs;
- 14 (m) Perform other duties necessary to educate Kentuckians on the history of
15 Harrodsburg and early frontier settlements and on the Commonwealth's
16 role in early westward expansion;
- 17 (n) Evaluate the existing infrastructure of Old Fort Harrod State Park, provide
18 recommendations for what infrastructure should be in place for the
19 successful undertaking of appropriate events and activities in accordance
20 with this section, and coordinate with state and local bodies to make
21 necessary infrastructure improvements; and
- 22 (o) Coordinate planning for the sestercentennial with the nonprofit
23 organization Harrodsburg 250th, Inc., this organization having been
24 established by the local governments of Harrodsburg and Mercer County to
25 serve as the point of contact for local planning for the sestercentennial.
- 26 (3) The commission shall consist of the following eleven (11) members:
- 27 (a) The secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet or his

- 1 or her designee;
- 2 (b) The secretary of the Transportation Cabinet or his or her designee;
- 3 (c) Two (2) members from the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, appointed
- 4 by the secretary of the cabinet;
- 5 (d) One (1) member from the Kentucky Heritage Council, appointed by the
- 6 state historic preservation officer;
- 7 (e) One (1) member of the Kentucky Humanities Council, appointed by the
- 8 chair of the council;
- 9 (f) One (1) member of the Harrodsburg 250th, Inc., recommended by the chair
- 10 of that organization and appointed by the Governor;
- 11 (g) One (1) member of the Friends of Fort Harrod, recommended by the leader
- 12 of that organization and appointed by the Governor; and
- 13 (h) Three (3) citizen members appointed by the Governor, one (1) of whom
- 14 shall be designated as the chair.
- 15 (4) The Harrodsburg Sestercentennial Commission shall be attached to the Kentucky
- 16 Historical Society for administrative purposes only.
- 17 (5) This section shall expire on January 1, 2027.