

18A:73-22,25

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August 20, 1969

185 W. State Street
Trenton, N. J.

Legislative Notes on R.S. 18A:73-22, 25
(Bicentennial Celebration - 200th - "1776")

Copy 2

No similar bills were introduced in previous years.

L. 1969, Chapter 126 - A783

Introduced March 24, 1969 by Schmitter and others.
Statement was made. (Copy enclosed)
Bill was amended. (Copy enclosed)

No hearings or reports were located.
Governor made statement and speech on signing bill. (Copy enclosed)
~~(Get copies from ...)~~

We located the following newspaper clippings:

- 2/6/67 "Delaware Valley Heritage - Who Will Run State Bicentennial?" - Trentonian.
- 7/3/69 "Bicentennial Plans Begin" - Newark Evening News.
- 7/3/69 "1976 Plans Underway - N.J. Am. Rev. Bicent. - Trenton Evening Times.
- 7/6/69 "Hughes' Support Sought - Make Bicentennial National, Says Buff" - Trenton Evening Times.

V.F. - - N.J. - - American Revolution Bicentennial.

JH/fb

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CHAPTER 121 LAWS OF N. J. 1969

APPROVED 7/12/69
[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 783

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 1969

By Assemblymen SCHLUTER, SELECKY, PARKER, Assemblywoman MARGETTS, Assemblymen MORAITES, WOODSON, HORN and MERLINO

(Without Reference)

AN ACT to provide for the formulation and implementation by the New Jersey Historical Commission of plans to commemorate the two-hundredth anniversary of the Independence of the United States and of the first Constitution of the State of New Jersey and making an appropriation therefor, providing for an increase of the membership **and clarifying the duties, powers and functions** of the aforesaid commission, and amending **[section]** **sections** 18A:73-22 **and 18A:73-25** of the New Jersey Statutes.

- 1 WHEREAS, The year 1976 will mark the two-hundredth anniversary
2 of the Independence of the United States, which was declared
3 on July 4, 1776, and of the first Constitution of the State of New
4 Jersey, which was adopted on July 2, 1776; and,
5 WHEREAS, It is desirable that these signal anniversaries in the
6 history of this State and of the United States be fittingly ob-
7 served and the momentous events with which they are connected
8 be duly commemorated; and,
9 WHEREAS, It is also desirable that New Jersey's plans for com-
10 memorating the two-hundredth anniversary of the Independence
11 of the United States be co-ordinated with similar plans which
12 may be formulated in other States or on a National level; and,
13 WHEREAS, It is necessary, in order that the aforesaid observance
14 and commemoration may be carried out to the enrichment of
15 historical knowledge and the enhancement of the people's aware-
16 ness of the depth and significance of their historical heritage,
17 that plans therefor be carefully formulated, guided and imple-
18 mented by an appropriate agency; now, therefore,

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

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Bicentennial
2 Celebration Act."

1 2. (a) The New Jersey Historical Commission, hereinafter re-
2 ferred to as the commission, is hereby authorized and directed to
3 formulate and implement a program for the suitable observance
4 of the two-hundredth anniversary of the Independence of the
5 United States and of the first Constitution of this State.

6 (b) The said program shall be planned so as to provide enduring
7 contributions to the preservation and interpretation of the his-
8 torical heritage of the people of this State both as New Jerseyans
9 and as Americans.

10 (c) The said program shall include provisions for the commis-
11 sion to stimulate and co-ordinate the activities of Federal, State,
12 municipal and private organizations with respect to observances
13 of the aforesaid anniversaries, and to co-operate with any public
14 agencies or private organizations in planning or carrying out such
15 observances on an interstate or National level.

16 (d) The said program shall include such activities as the com-
17 mission deems desirable and practicable, and may include the
18 publication of historical documents and studies, **co-operation with*
19 *agencies responsible for** the preservation or restoration of historic
20 sites, buildings and objects, the arrangement of appropriate public
21 ceremonies and the dissemination of public information relative
22 to the purposes and activities of the commission.

1 3. The commission is authorized to employ such assistants and
2 incur such expenses as may be necessary to carry out the pro-
3 visions of this act, and as may be within the limits of funds ap-
4 propriated or otherwise made available to it for said purpose.

1 4. The commission may receive gifts of money, property and
2 personal services for carrying out the provisions of this act.

1 5. For the fiscal year 1969-70 there is hereby appropriated to
2 the commission for carrying out the provisions of this act the
3 sum of \$23,500.00. Any part of such appropriation not expended
4 during the fiscal year 1969-70 shall be reappropriated to the com-
5 mission for the same purpose during each of the 6 succeeding fiscal
6 years.

1 6. Section 18A:73-22 of the New Jersey Statutes is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 18A:73-22. There is hereby established in the Division of the
4 State Library, Archives and History of the State Department of
5 Education the New Jersey Historical Commission to be composed
6 of **[8]** 10 members as follows:

7 (a) The State Librarian and the supervisor of the historic sites

8 section of the Department of Conservation and Economic Develop-
9 ment; and

10 (b) Six citizens of the State to be appointed by the Governor
11 with the advice and consent of the Senate, all of whom shall be
12 chosen by reason of their expertise in New Jersey history and
13 qualified by academic achievement or professional affiliation, who
14 shall serve for terms of 3 years and until the appointment and
15 qualification of their successors except that of the members first
16 appointed 2 shall be appointed for terms of 1 year, 2 for terms of
17 2 years and 2 for terms of 3 years.

18 (c) *One member of the Senate to be appointed by the President*
19 *thereof, and one member of the General Assembly to be appointed*
20 *by the Speaker thereof. Anyone appointed pursuant to this sub-*
21 *section shall serve as a member of the commission until the expira-*
22 *tion of his term as Senator or Assemblyman, as the case may be,*
23 *during which he was appointed.*

1 *7. *Section 18A:73-25 of the New Jersey Statutes is amended*
2 *to read as follows:*

3 *18A:73-25. (a) The commission shall be responsible for serving*
4 *in an advisory capacity to State departments and agencies and*
5 *public educational institutions in connection with activities con-*
6 *cerned with State history. It shall advise such public and private*
7 *agencies in respect to programs of historic research and publica-*
8 *tion, education, commemorative observances, preservation of his-*
9 *toric sites and buildings, public exhibitions and other programs*
10 *pertaining to the history of New Jersey and enlist the talents of*
11 *historians, librarians and members of historic, patriotic and civic*
12 *organizations concerned with the State history in connection*
13 *therewith.*

14 (b) *The commission is authorized, within the limits of such funds*
15 *as may be appropriated or otherwise available to it, to plan and*
16 *execute programs for:*

17 1. *the production, publication and distribution of books, pam-*
18 *phlets, films and other educational materials relating to historical*
19 *subjects;*

20 2. *conference, convocations, lectures, seminars and other similar*
21 *activities relating to historical subjects;*

22 3. *the development of libraries, museums, historic sites and*
23 *exhibits, including mobile exhibits;*

24 4. *ceremonies and celebrations and other commemorative activi-*
25 *ties commemorating specific historical events.*

26 (c) *In carrying out duties and functions as provided in this act*
27 *the commission is authorized to employ such assistants and incur*
28 *such expenses as may be necessary therefor and as may be within*
29 *the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it*
30 *for said purpose.*

31 (d) *The commission may receive gifts of money, property and*
32 *personal services for carrying out the provisions of this act.**

1 ***[7.]*** *8.* This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY, No. 783

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 1969

By Assemblymen SCHLUTER, SELECKY, PARKER, Assemblywoman MARGETTS, Assemblymen MORAITES, WOODSON, HORN and MERLINO

(Without Reference)

AN ACT to provide for the formulation and implementation by the New Jersey Historical Commission of plans to commemorate the two-hundredth anniversary of the Independence of the United States and of the first Constitution of the State of New Jersey and making an appropriation therefor, providing for an increase of the membership of the aforesaid commission, and amending section 18A:73-22 of the New Jersey Statutes.

1 WHEREAS, The year 1976 will mark the two-hundredth anniversary
2 of the Independence of the United States, which was declared
3 on July 4, 1776, and of the first Constitution of the State of New
4 Jersey, which was adopted on July 2, 1776; and,

5 WHEREAS, It is desirable that these signal anniversaries in the
6 history of this State and of the United States be fittingly ob-
7 served and the momentous events with which they are connected
8 be duly commemorated; and,

9 WHEREAS, It is also desirable that New Jersey's plans for com-
10 memorating the two-hundredth anniversary of the Independence
11 of the United States be co-ordinated with similar plans which
12 may be formulated in other States or on a National level; and,

13 WHEREAS, It is necessary, in order that the aforesaid observance
14 and commemoration may be carried out to the enrichment of
15 historical knowledge and the enhancement of the people's aware-
16 ness of the depth and significance of their historical heritage,
17 that plans therefor be carefully formulated, guided and imple-
18 mented by an appropriate agency; now, therefore,

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

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

1 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Bicentennial
2 Celebration Act."

1 2. (a) The New Jersey Historical Commission, hereinafter re-
2 ferred to as the commission, is hereby authorized and directed to
3 formulate and implement a program for the suitable observance
4 of the two-hundredth anniversary of the Independence of the
5 United States and of the first Constitution of this State.

6 (b) The said program shall be planned so as to provide enduring
7 contributions to the preservation and interpretation of the his-
8 torical heritage of the people of this State both as New Jerseyans
9 and as Americans.

10 (c) The said program shall include provisions for the commis-
11 sion to stimulate and co-ordinate the activities of Federal, State,
12 municipal and private organizations with respect to observances
13 of the aforesaid anniversaries, and to co-operate with any public
14 agencies or private organizations in planning or carrying out such
15 observances on an interstate or National level.

16 (d) The said program shall include such activities as the com-
17 mission deems desirable and practicable, and may include the
18 publication of historical documents and studies, the preservation
19 or restoration of historic sites, buildings and objects, the arrange-
20 ment of appropriate public ceremonies and the dissemination of
21 public information relative to the purposes and activities of the
22 commission.

1 3. The commission is authorized to employ such assistants and
2 incur such expenses as may be necessary to carry out the pro-
3 visions of this act, and as may be within the limits of funds ap-
4 propriated or otherwise made available to it for said purpose.

1 4. The commission may receive gifts of money, property and
2 personal services for carrying out the provisions of this act.

1 5. For the fiscal year 1969-70 there is hereby appropriated to
2 the commission for carrying out the provisions of this act the
3 sum of \$23,500.00. Any part of such appropriation not expended
4 during the fiscal year 1969-70 shall be reappropriated to the com-
5 mission for the same purpose during each of the 6 succeeding fiscal
6 years.

1 6. Section 18A:73-22 of the New Jersey Statutes is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 18A:73-22. There is hereby established in the Division of the
4 State Library, Archives and History of the State Department of
5 Education the New Jersey Historical Commission to be composed
6 of **[8]** 10 members as follows:

7 (a) The State Librarian and the supervisor of the historic sites

8 section of the Department of Conservation and Economic Develop-
9 ment; and

10 (b) Six citizens of the State to be appointed by the Governor
11 with the advice and consent of the Senate, all of whom shall be
12 chosen by reason of their expertise in New Jersey history and
13 qualified by academic achievement or professional affiliation, who
14 shall serve for terms of 3 years and until the appointment and
15 qualification of their successors except that of the members first
16 appointed 2 shall be appointed for terms of 1 year, 2 for terms of
17 2 years and 2 for terms of 3 years.

18 (c) *One member of the Senate to be appointed by the President*
19 *thereof, and one member of the General Assembly to be appointed*
20 *by the Speaker thereof. Anyone appointed pursuant to this sub-*
21 *section shall serve as a member of the commission until the expira-*
22 *tion of his term as Senator or Assemblyman, as the case may be,*
23 *during which he was appointed.*

1 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill authorizes and directs the New Jersey Historical Commission to make and carry out plans for appropriate observances of our Nation's and State's Bicentennial Year, 1976. This activity would begin with the next fiscal year, and is similar to the tasks assigned to the Tercentenary Commission when it was created in 1958 to plan for the 1964 Tercentenary observances.

This bill also provides for legislative representation on the Historical Commission by adding 1 Senator and 1 Assemblyman to the present 8 members. The other members are the State Librarian, the Supervisor of the Historic Sites Section in the Department of Conservation and Economic Development, both *ex officio*, and 6 citizens appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The 11-member Tercentenary Commission included 4 legislators and 7 citizens appointed by the Governor.

The appropriation for carrying out the provisions of this bill is \$23,500.00, which is estimated to provide a staff of 2 persons during fiscal 1969-70. The initial (1958-59) appropriation to the Tercentenary Commission was \$25,000.00.

It is believed that the wisdom of advance planning for such an historic observance has been shown by the results of the work of the Tercentenary Commission. In view of the public and official nature of such commemorations, legislative representation, as in the case of the Tercentenary Commission, is also helpful and **appropriate.**

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENTS TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 783

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADOPTED APRIL 10, 1969

Amend page 1, title, line 6, after "membership", insert "and clarifying the duties, powers and functions".

Amend page 1, title, line 7, omit "section", insert "sections"; after "18A:73-22", insert "and 18A:73-25".

Amend page 2, section 2, line 18, after "studies," insert "co-operation with agencies responsible for".

Amend page 3, section 6, after line 23, insert a new section 7 as follows:

"7. Section 18A:73-25 of the New Jersey Statutes is amended to read as follows:

18A:73-25. (a) The commission shall be responsible for serving in an advisory capacity to State departments and agencies and public educational institutions in connection with activities concerned with State history. It shall advise such public and private agencies in respect to programs of historic research and publication, education, commemorative observances, preservation of historic sites and buildings, public exhibitions and other programs pertaining to the history of New Jersey and enlist the talents of historians, librarians and members of historic, patriotic and civic organizations concerned with the State history in connection therewith.

(b) The commission is authorized, within the limits of such funds as may be appropriated or otherwise available to it, to plan and execute programs for:

1. the production, publication and distribution of books, pamphlets, films and other educational materials relating to historical subjects;
2. conference, convocations, lectures, seminars and other similar activities relating to historical subjects;
3. the development of libraries, museums, historic sites and exhibits, including mobile exhibits;
4. ceremonies and celebrations and other commemorative activities commemorating specific historical events.

(c) In carrying out duties and functions as provided in this act the commission is authorized to employ such assistants and incur such expenses as may be necessary therefor and as may be within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it for said purpose.

(d) The commission may receive gifts of money, property and personal services for carrying out the provisions of this act.”

Amend page 3, section 7, line 1, omit “7.”, insert “8.”.



State of New Jersey

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 2, 1969

Governor Signs American Revolution Bicentennial Bill

Governor Richard J. Hughes today signed an American Revolution Bicentennial Bill recently enacted by the State Legislature.

The new law directs the New Jersey Historical Commission to plan a state-wide program "to commemorate the two-hundredth anniversary of the Independence of the United States and of the first Constitution of the State of New Jersey."

It provides an appropriation of \$23,500 for the Historical Commission to begin its plans in 1969-70, and adds two legislative members to the Commission.

Introduced by Assemblyman William E. Schluter of Mercer County and a bipartisan group of co-sponsors, the bill passed the Assembly on April 14 and the Senate on May 15.

The day chosen for the signing was the 193rd anniversary of New Jersey's first Constitution adopted by the revolutionary Provincial Congress on July 2, 1776.

The ceremonies were held before a large audience gathered in the Archives Exhibit Room of the State Library in Trenton. Speakers included Assemblyman Schluter, Professor Richard P. McCormick, chairman of the Historical Commission, and Roger H. McDonough, State Librarian.

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR RICHARD J. HUGHES
AT
SIGNING OF A-783
STATE MUSEUM ARCHIVES ROOM
R. Hughes TRENTON
JULY 2, 1969

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. It is a great pleasure to see all of you here today for the signing of the American Revolution Bicentennial Bill. I am sure you are aware that you represent the enthusiastic interest of the people of New Jersey in the history of our state and nation, and in the momentous events and ideas which this bill is designed to commemorate.

We meet on the one hundred ninety-third anniversary of the adoption of the first Constitution of the State of New Jersey, that earliest embodiment of our liberties. It is certainly fitting that we have chosen this day for such an occasion, and that we have gathered in the room where that Constitution is enshrined with other great documents.

I must say that this occasion holds a kind of nostalgic personal interest for me, coming as it does this year. I recall that almost immediately after Election Day in 1961 I became involved, along with my distinguished predecessor, in the inauguration of New Jersey's Tercentenary observance, which culminated in 1964.

That was not so long ago, and many of you in this room were very much a part of the Tercentenary program. I need hardly remind you that those were years of excitement and achievement. Not only did we enjoy ourselves celebrating, but we also accomplished some extremely worthwhile goals -- for the advancement of education, for historical research and scholarship, for museums and libraries, and for the arts. We built or strengthened a host of public and private institutions dedicated to those vital activities.

Indeed, among the things we created are, as you know, these splendid new buildings of the State Museum and the State Library, in which we can all take pride.

We also created the New Jersey Historical Commission as a permanent agency of the State Government, in order to continue the work of its two temporary predecessors, the Tercentenary and Civil War Centennial Commissions. The Commission stands alongside those other recently established agencies, the

Historic Sites Council and the Council on the Arts.

Back in 1967, shortly after appointing the members of the Historical Commission, I asked them to consider as one of their first obligations the planning of New Jersey's participation in the forthcoming national observance of the American Revolution Bicentennial. The Commission's chairman, Professor Richard P. McCormick, characteristically gave me a prompt and candid reply. He said, in effect: "Give us the means and we will do the job."

The bill I am signing today represents an essential step in that direction. And I would like to congratulate its sponsors and the entire Legislature for taking this action, which makes New Jersey the eighth state to enact legislation for the Bicentennial.

In inaugurating our state's Bicentennial observance, we are undertaking an enormous task which will present us with exciting opportunities and complex problems. To begin with, there will be the job of planning and organizing a state-wide program, involving the cooperation of a great many agencies and individuals. The program they come up with will have to be well coordinated, and yet allow for a large measure of diversity and independent action. And of course it must be a part of the national program planned by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.

Along with the planning and organizing will be the essential job of enlisting financial support from both public and private sources, without which no commemorative program will be possible. Above all, this will require the closest cooperation between government and the business community--the kind of cooperation that made the Tercentenary so successful.

But what I wish most to emphasize today are my hopes concerning the larger goals of the Bicentennial in our state and throughout the nation. These goals should, I think, be twofold.

First, I hope that the Bicentennial will be used as an opportunity to advance the serious study and appreciation of American history--the people, the events, the ideas that have shaped us. In particular, the era of the American Revolution, together with its colonial origins and the early national period, should be the subject of intensive activity, both scholarly and popular.

I hope that the Historical Commission and cooperating agencies will plan a series of projects to publish the official records of New Jersey and its several counties and municipalities, and the papers of New Jersey statesmen and other distinguished citizens, bearing on that period of our history. These should

be accompanied by at least one series of published historical studies written by the best scholars in the state--just as the Tercentenary Commission sponsored the excellent "New Jersey Historical Series."

I also hope we can look forward to a plan to survey and improve library collections--both published and manuscript--pertaining to New Jersey's role in the Revolution, and to publish the necessary guides that would make those collections more accessible to the public.

I hope there will be an imaginative program of museum exhibitions throughout the state, and an effort to strengthen historical collections in our museums. In this connection, I commend to your attention the traveling exhibition known as the Historymobile, which was so dramatic a part of the Tercentenary celebration.

I hope that the Bicentennial will stimulate new approaches to the teaching of history--including the history of New Jersey and its local communities--at every level of our educational system.

In carrying out such projects, we must make vigorous efforts to discover the forgotten chapters of our history--the lives, the experiences, the achievements of groups of people that have contributed great things to the building of this country and have not received their due attention in the writing and teaching of history. In particular, of course, we are all aware these days of the previous neglect of Afro-American history and the current efforts to right the balance.

These, and all the other serious historical activities that should be undertaken, will clearly require considerable sums of money if they are not to remain idle hopes. I suggest to you that they are likely to get the kind of money they need only if you place these projects high in your set of priorities for the Bicentennial -- far above other forms of commemorative observance which are as ephemeral as they are entertaining.

A second and obviously related goal that I want to call to your attention is this: that the Bicentennial should be a public recognition of the present meaning of the American Revolution. And the heart of that meaning lies in the ideas, the ideals, the principles, the dreams, the institutions, that were planted and have flourished in this country because the Revolution succeeded.

If we are to take an honest look at the meaning of the Revolution, we will need to be both admiring and critical about all of those things. We will need to inquire into the promise of American life, and its reality as it applies to every

segment of our population. We will need to examine the unfinished business of the American Revolution, as well as its achievements. And all of this serious deliberation must involve and include every segment of our population.

We must recognize our full potential and our full promise as a people and as a nation. A great President and former Governor of New Jersey, Woodrow Wilson, once spoke eloquently upon this subject, describing the vision of America. He said:

"The vision of America will never change. America once, when she was a little people, sat upon a hill of privilege and had a vision of the future. She saw men happy because they were free. She saw them free because they were equal. She saw them banded together because they had the spirit of brothers. She saw them safe because they did not wish to impose upon one another. And the vision is not changed. The multitude has grown, that welcome multitude that comes from all parts of the world to seek a safe place of life and of hope in America. And so America will move forward, if she moves forward at all, only with her face to that same sun of promise."

We all know that we live in contentious times, in which great public issues are often bitterly debated. While we certainly must not permit our Bicentennial observance to become entangled in any kind of partisan affair or physical confrontation, let us not try to conduct it as if it were happening on a different planet. Like the great controversies of the late eighteenth century, those which now rage in our nation have much to do with the meaning and promise of the American Revolution. I think that, in these times, it is particularly important for all Americans-- including those who actively criticize our society and those who prefer to sit on the sidelines of history--to examine our goals and our actions in the light of our heritage as Americans and to ask ourselves just how well we have kept faith with our inheritance.

These are some of the things that I think can make of our Bicentennial a highly meaningful occasion. I am very proud to have the honor of signing this bill today, and I expect to do my part in this historic observance in the years to come. Thank you.

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