

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 356

To establish a National Commission on the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2001

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. BREAU) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

## A BILL

To establish a National Commission on the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Louisiana Purchase  
5 Bicentennial Commission Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase  
9 occurs in 2003, 200 years after the United States,  
10 under the leadership of President Thomas Jefferson

1 and after due consideration and approval by Con-  
2 gress, paid \$15,000,000 to France in order to ac-  
3 quire the vast area in the western half of the Mis-  
4 sissippi River Basin;

5 (2) the Louisiana Purchase was the largest  
6 peaceful land transaction in history, virtually dou-  
7 bling the size of the United States;

8 (3) the Louisiana Purchase opened the heart-  
9 land of the North American continent for explo-  
10 ration, settlement, and achievement to the people of  
11 the United States;

12 (4) in the wake of the Louisiana Purchase, the  
13 new frontier attracted immigrants from around the  
14 world and became synonymous with the search for  
15 spiritual, economic, and political freedom;

16 (5) today the States of Arkansas, Colorado,  
17 Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Mon-  
18 tana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South  
19 Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming make up what was the  
20 Louisiana Territory; and

21 (6) commemoration of the Louisiana Purchase  
22 and the opening of the West would—

23 (A) enhance public understanding of the  
24 impact of westward expansion on the society of  
25 the United States; and

1 (B) provide lessons for continued demo-  
2 cratic governance in the United States.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) BICENTENNIAL.—The term “Bicentennial”  
6 means the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Pur-  
7 chase.

8 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”  
9 means the National Commission on the Bicentennial  
10 of the Louisiana Purchase established under section  
11 4(a).

12 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a com-  
14 mission to be known as the “National Commission on the  
15 Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase”.

16 (b) DUTIES.—The Commission shall plan, encourage,  
17 coordinate, and conduct the commemoration of the Bicen-  
18 tennial.

19 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

20 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be  
21 composed of 24 members, of which 12 members  
22 shall be Republicans and 12 members shall be  
23 Democrats, including—

24 (A) 12 members, of which 6 members shall  
25 be Republicans and 6 members shall be Demo-

1 crats, appointed by the President to represent  
2 the United States;

3 (B) 6 members, of which 3 members shall  
4 be Republicans and 3 members shall be Demo-  
5 crats, appointed by the President, on the rec-  
6 ommendation of the majority and minority lead-  
7 ers of the Senate; and

8 (C) 6 members, of which 3 members shall  
9 be Republicans and 3 members shall be Demo-  
10 crats, appointed by the President, on the rec-  
11 ommendation of the Speaker of the House of  
12 Representatives, in consultation with the minor-  
13 ity leader of the House of Representatives.

14 (2) CRITERIA.—A member of the Commission  
15 shall be chosen from among individuals that have  
16 demonstrated a strong sense of public service, exper-  
17 tise in the appropriate professions, scholarship, and  
18 abilities likely to contribute to the fulfillment of the  
19 duties of the Commission.

20 (3) PROHIBITION ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
21 EMPLOYMENT.—A member of the Commission shall  
22 not be an employee or former employee of the Fed-  
23 eral Government.

24 (4) INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION.—The  
25 President shall invite the Governments of France

1 and Spain to appoint, not later than 60 days after  
2 the date of enactment of this Act, 1 individual to  
3 serve as a nonvoting member of the Commission.

4 (5) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appoint-  
5 ment of a member of the Commission described in  
6 paragraph (1) shall be made not later than 60 days  
7 after the date of enactment of this Act.

8 (d) TERM; VACANCIES.—

9 (1) TERM.—A member shall be appointed for  
10 the life of the Commission.

11 (2) VACANCY.—A vacancy on the  
12 Commission—

13 (A) shall not affect the powers of the Com-  
14 mission; and

15 (B) shall be filled in the same manner as  
16 the original appointment was made.

17 (e) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after  
18 the date on which all members of the Commission have  
19 been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial  
20 meeting of the Commission.

21 (f) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the  
22 call of the Co-Chairpersons described under subsection  
23 (h).

24 (g) QUORUM.—A quorum of the Commission for deci-  
25 sion-making purposes shall be 13 members, except that

1 a lesser number of members, as determined by the Com-  
 2 mission, may conduct meetings.

3 (h) CO-CHAIRPERSONS AND VICE CO-CHAIR-  
 4 PERSONS.—

5 (1) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—The President shall  
 6 designate 2 of the members, 1 of which shall be a  
 7 Republican and 1 of which shall be a Democrat, to  
 8 be Co-Chairpersons of the Commission.

9 (2) CO-VICE-CHAIRPERSONS.—The Commission  
 10 shall select 2 Co-Vice-Chairpersons, 1 of which shall  
 11 be a Republican and 1 of which shall be a Democrat,  
 12 from among the members of the Commission.

13 **SEC. 5. DUTIES.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

15 (1) plan and develop activities appropriate to  
 16 commemorate the Bicentennial including a limited  
 17 number of proposed projects to be undertaken by the  
 18 appropriate Federal departments and agencies that  
 19 commemorate the Bicentennial by seeking to har-  
 20 monize and balance the important goals of ceremony  
 21 and celebration with the equally important goals of  
 22 scholarship and education;

23 (2) consult with and encourage Indian tribes,  
 24 appropriate Federal departments and agencies, State  
 25 and local governments, elementary and secondary

1 schools, colleges and universities, foreign govern-  
2 ments, and private organizations to organize and  
3 participate in Bicentennial activities commemorating  
4 or examining—

5 (A) the history of the Louisiana Territory;

6 (B) the negotiations of the Louisiana Pur-  
7 chase;

8 (C) voyages of discovery;

9 (D) frontier movements; and

10 (E) the westward expansion of the United  
11 States; and

12 (3) coordinate activities throughout the United  
13 States and internationally that relate to the history  
14 and influence of the Louisiana Purchase.

15 (b) REPORTS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
17 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission  
18 shall submit to the President and Congress a com-  
19 prehensive report that includes specific recommenda-  
20 tions for—

21 (A) the allocation of financial and adminis-  
22 trative responsibility among participating enti-  
23 ties and persons with respect to commemoration  
24 of the Bicentennial; and

1 (B) the commemoration of the Bicenten-  
2 nial and related events through programs and  
3 activities, such as—

4 (i) the production, publication, and  
5 distribution of books, pamphlets, films,  
6 electronic publications, and other edu-  
7 cational materials focusing on the history  
8 and impact of the Louisiana Purchase on  
9 the United States and the world;

10 (ii) bibliographical and documentary  
11 projects, publications, and electronic re-  
12 sources;

13 (iii) conferences, convocations, lec-  
14 tures, seminars, and other programs;

15 (iv) the development of programs by  
16 and for libraries, museums, parks and his-  
17 toric sites, including international and na-  
18 tional traveling exhibitions;

19 (v) ceremonies and celebrations com-  
20 memorating specific events;

21 (vi) the production, distribution, and  
22 performance of artistic works, and of pro-  
23 grams and activities, focusing on the inter-  
24 national and national significance of the  
25 Louisiana Purchase and the westward

1 movement opening the frontier for present  
2 and future generations; and

3 (vii) the issuance of commemorative  
4 coins, medals, certificates of recognition,  
5 and stamps.

6 (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Commission shall  
7 submit an annual report that describes the activities,  
8 programs, expenditures, and donations of or received  
9 by the Commission to—

10 (A) the President;

11 (B) the Senate; and

12 (C) the House of Representatives.

13 (3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than March 31,  
14 2005, the Commission shall submit a final report  
15 that describes the activities, programs, expenditures,  
16 and donations of or received by the Commission to—

17 (A) the President;

18 (B) the Senate; and

19 (C) the House of Representatives.

20 (e) ASSISTANCE.—In carrying out this Act, the Com-  
21 mission shall consult, cooperate with, and seek advice and  
22 assistance from appropriate Federal departments and  
23 agencies.

1 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may provide  
3 for—

4 (1) the preparation, distribution, dissemination,  
5 exhibition, and sale of historical, commemorative,  
6 and informational materials and objects that will  
7 contribute to public awareness of, and interest in,  
8 the Bicentennial, except that any commemorative  
9 coin, medal, or postage stamp recommended to be  
10 issued by the United States shall be sold only by a  
11 Federal department or agency;

12 (2) competitions and awards for historical,  
13 scholarly, artistic, literary, musical, and other works,  
14 programs, and projects relating to the Bicentennial;

15 (3) a Bicentennial calendar or register of pro-  
16 grams and projects, and in other ways provide a  
17 central clearinghouse for information and coordina-  
18 tion regarding dates, events, places, documents, arti-  
19 facts, and personalities of Bicentennial historical  
20 and commemorative significance; and

21 (4) the design and designation of logos, sym-  
22 bols, or marks for use in connection with the com-  
23 memoration of the Bicentennial shall establish proce-  
24 dures regarding their use.

1 (b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Commission may  
2 appoint such advisory committees as the Commission de-  
3 termines necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

4 **SEC. 7. ADMINISTRATION.**

5 (a) LOCATION OF OFFICE.—

6 (1) PRINCIPAL OFFICE.—The principal office of  
7 the Commission shall be in New Orleans, Louisiana.

8 (2) SATELLITE OFFICE.—The Commission may  
9 establish a satellite office in Washington, D.C.

10 (b) STAFF.—

11 (1) APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY  
12 DIRECTOR.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Co-Chairpersons,  
14 with the advice of the Commission, may appoint  
15 and terminate a director and deputy director  
16 without regard to the civil service laws (includ-  
17 ing regulations).

18 (B) DELEGATION TO DIRECTOR.—The  
19 Commission may delegate such powers and du-  
20 ties to the director as may be necessary for the  
21 efficient operation and management of the  
22 Commission.

23 (2) STAFF PAID FROM FEDERAL FUNDS.—The  
24 Commission may use any available Federal funds to  
25 appoint and fix the compensation of not more than

1 10 additional personnel staff members, as the Com-  
2 mission determines necessary.

3 (3) STAFF PAID FROM NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—

4 The Commission may use any available non-Federal  
5 funds to appoint and fix the compensation of addi-  
6 tional personnel.

7 (4) COMPENSATION.—

8 (A) MEMBERS.—

9 (i) IN GENERAL.—A member of the  
10 Commission shall serve without compensa-  
11 tion.

12 (ii) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member  
13 of the Commission shall be allowed travel  
14 expenses, including per diem in lieu of sub-  
15 sistence, at rates authorized for an em-  
16 ployee of an agency under subchapter I of  
17 chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code,  
18 while away from the home or regular place  
19 of business of the member in the perform-  
20 ance of the duties of the Commission.

21 (B) STAFF.—

22 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Co-Chair-  
23 persons of the Commission may fix the  
24 compensation of the director, deputy direc-  
25 tor, and other personnel without regard to

1 the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-  
2 chapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United  
3 States Code, relating to classification of  
4 positions and General Schedule pay rates.

5 (ii) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—

6 (I) DIRECTOR.—The rate of pay  
7 for the director shall not exceed the  
8 rate payable for level IV of the Execu-  
9 tive Schedule under section 5315 of  
10 title 5, United States Code.

11 (II) DEPUTY DIRECTOR.—The  
12 rate of pay for the deputy director  
13 shall not exceed the rate payable for  
14 level V of the Executive Schedule  
15 under section 5316 of title 5, United  
16 States Code.

17 (III) STAFF MEMBERS.—The  
18 rate of pay for staff members ap-  
19 pointed under paragraph (2) shall not  
20 exceed the rate payable for grade GS-  
21 15 of the General Schedule under sec-  
22 tion 5332 of title 5, United States  
23 Code.

24 (c) DETAIL OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOY-  
25 EES.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—On request of the Commis-  
2           sion, the head of any Federal agency or department  
3           may detail any of the personnel of the agency or de-  
4           partment to the Commission to assist the Commis-  
5           sion in carrying out this Act.

6           (2) REIMBURSEMENT.—A detail of personnel  
7           under this subsection shall be without reimburse-  
8           ment by the Commission to the agency from which  
9           the employee was detailed.

10          (3) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The detail of the  
11          employee shall be without interruption or loss of civil  
12          service status or privilege.

13          (d) OTHER REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES.—

14               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may pro-  
15               cure supplies, services, and property, enter into con-  
16               tracts, and expend funds appropriated, donated, or  
17               received to carry out contracts.

18               (2) DONATIONS.—

19                     (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may  
20                     solicit, accept, use, and dispose of donations of  
21                     money, property, or personal services.

22                     (B) LIMITATIONS.—Subject to subpara-  
23                     graph (C), the Commission shall not accept  
24                     donations—

1 (i) the value of which exceeds \$50,000  
2 annually, in the case of donations from an  
3 individual; or

4 (ii) the value of which exceeds  
5 \$250,000 annually, in the case of dona-  
6 tions from a person other than an indi-  
7 vidual.

8 (C) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The lim-  
9 itations in subparagraph (B) shall not apply in  
10 the case of an organization that is—

11 (i) described in section 501(c)(3) of  
12 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

13 (ii) exempt from taxation under sec-  
14 tion 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code  
15 of 1986.

16 (4) ACQUIRED ITEMS.—Any book, manuscript,  
17 miscellaneous printed matter, memorabilia, relic, and  
18 other material or property relating to the time pe-  
19 riod of the Louisiana Purchase acquired by the  
20 Commission may be deposited for preservation in na-  
21 tional, State, or local libraries, museums, archives,  
22 or other agencies with the consent of the depository  
23 institution.

24 (e) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use  
25 the United States mail to carry out this Act in the same

1 manner and under the same conditions as other agencies  
2 of the Federal Government.

3 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c),  
5 there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the  
6 purposes of this Act—

7 (1) \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2002; and

8 (2) such sums as may be necessary for each of  
9 fiscal years 2003 through 2005.

10 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-  
11 priated under this section for any fiscal year shall remain  
12 available until March 31, 2005.

13 (c) LIMITATION.—The total amount of funds made  
14 available under this section shall not exceed \$4,000,000.

15 **SEC. 9. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

16 The authority provided by this Act terminates effec-  
17 tive March 31, 2005.

○