

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1520

To establish the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission, the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2007

Mr. HINCHEY (for himself, Mr. McHUGH, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. McNULTY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WALSH of New York, and Mr. WEINER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To establish the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission, the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commemo-
4 ration Act of 2007”.

5 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
6 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

Sec. 101. Findings and purpose.

Sec. 102. Coordination.

TITLE II—CHAMPLAIN QUADRICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION
COMMISSION

Sec. 201. Definitions.

Sec. 202. Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission.

Sec. 203. Audit of Commission.

Sec. 204. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—HUDSON-FULTON 400TH COMMEMORATION
COMMISSION

Sec. 301. Definitions.

Sec. 302. Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission.

Sec. 303. Audit of Commission.

Sec. 304. Authorization of appropriations.

7 **TITLE I—FINDINGS AND**
8 **PURPOSE**

9 **SEC. 101. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

10 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

11 (1) The first European exploration of the Hud-
12 son River and Lake Champlain and the introduction
13 of steam navigation to maritime commerce were
14 events of major historical importance, both in the
15 United States and internationally.

1 (2) In 1609, Englishman Henry Hudson, acting
2 in the service of the Dutch East India Company,
3 was the first European to sail up the river later
4 named for him in the vessel HALF MOON. Also in
5 1609, French explorer Samuel de Champlain was
6 the first European to see the lake later named for
7 him, as well as the shores of Northern New York
8 and Vermont.

9 (3) These voyages were two of the most signifi-
10 cant passages in the European exploration and dis-
11 covery of America, and included two of the earliest
12 contacts in the New World between Native Ameri-
13 cans and Europeans.

14 (4) These explorations led to the establishment
15 of Fort Orange, a Dutch (and later English) settle-
16 ment of what is now the capital city of the State of
17 New York, as well as the establishment of French
18 trading posts, military posts, and settlements as far
19 south as Lake George. From these early establish-
20 ments came trade, commerce, cultural, and religious
21 impact deep into the Mohawk Valley and as far west
22 as Lake Erie. These settlements influenced the Na-
23 tion's history, culture, law, commerce, and traditions
24 of liberty that extend to the present day, and that

1 are constantly reflected in the position of the United
2 States as the leader of the nations of the free world.

3 (5) In 1807, Robert Fulton navigated the Hud-
4 son River from the city of New York to Albany in
5 the steamboat CLERMONT, successfully inau-
6 gurating steam navigation on a commercial basis.
7 This event is one of the most important events in
8 the history of navigation. It revolutionized water-
9 borne commerce on the great rivers of the United
10 States, transformed naval warfare, and fostered
11 international relations through transoceanic travel
12 and trade.

13 (6) In 1909, the Congress authorized a Cham-
14 plain Tercentennial Commission and supported its
15 activities. The Congress recognized the 350th anni-
16 versary by establishing a similar commission to co-
17 ordinate Federal participation in the 1959 celebra-
18 tion of Hudson's and Champlain's discoveries.

19 (7) The National Park Service owns and oper-
20 ates significant resources in New York related to the
21 early history of the Nation and the Hudson River
22 Valley.

23 (8) In 2000, Canada's Province of Quebec es-
24 tablished a Quebec 400 Commission with a budget
25 in excess of \$1,000,000, of which commemoration of

1 the 1609 Champlain voyage into the Lake Cham-
2 plain region is a part.

3 (9) In 2002, the State of New York established
4 a Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commission.

5 (10) In 2003, the State of Vermont established
6 a Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Commission.

7 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to estab-
8 lish the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration
9 Commission and the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemora-
10 tion Commission, to—

11 (1) ensure a suitable national observance of the
12 Henry Hudson, Robert Fulton, and Samuel de
13 Champlain 2009 commemorations through coopera-
14 tion with and assistance to the programs and activi-
15 ties of New York, Vermont, and the commemorative
16 commissions formed by these States;

17 (2) assist in ensuring that Hudson-Fulton-
18 Champlain 2009 observances provide an excellent
19 visitor experience and beneficial interaction between
20 visitors and the natural and cultural resources of the
21 New York and Vermont sites;

22 (3) assist in ensuring that Hudson-Fulton-
23 Champlain 2009 observances are inclusive and ap-
24 propriately recognize the diverse Hudson River and

1 Lake Champlain Valley communities that developed
2 over four centuries;

3 (4) facilitate international involvement, includ-
4 ing the involvement of the commemorative commis-
5 sion formed by Canada, in the Hudson-Fulton-
6 Champlain 2009 observances;

7 (5) support and facilitate marketing efforts for
8 a commemorative coin, a commemorative stamp, and
9 related activities for the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain
10 2009 observances;

11 (6) assist in the appropriate development of
12 heritage tourism and economic benefits to the
13 United States; and

14 (7) support and facilitate the related efforts of
15 the Lake Champlain Basin Program in the coordina-
16 tion of efforts to commemorate the voyage of Samuel
17 de Champlain.

18 **SEC. 102. COORDINATION.**

19 The two commissions established under this Act shall
20 ensure coordination of their activities to achieve seamless
21 and successful commemorations, and ensure consistency
22 with the plans and programs of the commemorative com-
23 missions established by the States of New York and
24 Vermont.

1 **TITLE** **II—CHAMPLAIN**
2 **QUADRICENTENNIAL COM-**
3 **MEMORATION COMMISSION**

4 **SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this title:

6 (1) **COMMEMORATION.**—The term “commemo-
7 ration” means the commemoration of the 400th an-
8 niversary of Samuel de Champlain’s voyage.

9 (2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission”
10 means the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemo-
11 ration Commission established by section 202(a).

12 (3) **LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM.**—The
13 term “Lake Champlain Basin Program” means the
14 partnership with Federal agencies established by the
15 States of New York and Vermont under section 120
16 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
17 U.S.C. 1270) to implement the Lake Champlain
18 management plan entitled “Opportunities for Ac-
19 tion”.

20 (4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of the Interior.

22 (5) **STATES.**—The term “States”—

23 (A) means the States of New York and
24 Vermont; and

1 (B) includes agencies and other entities of
2 each such State.

3 **SEC. 202. CHAMPLAIN QUADRICENTENNIAL COMMEMORA-**
4 **TION COMMISSION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
6 commission to be known as the “Champlain
7 Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission”.

8 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be
10 composed of 11 members, of whom—

11 (A) 2 members shall be employees of the
12 National Park Service, of whom—

13 (i) one shall be the Director of the
14 National Park Service (or a designee of the
15 Director); and

16 (ii) one shall be an employee of the
17 National Park Service having experience
18 relevant to the commemoration, who shall
19 be appointed by the Secretary;

20 (B) 4 members shall be appointed by the
21 Secretary from among individuals who, on the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, are serving
23 as members of the State of New York’s Hud-
24 son-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Com-

1 mission and are residents of the Champlain
2 Valley;

3 (C) 4 members shall be appointed by the
4 Secretary from among individuals who, on the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, are serving
6 as members of the State of Vermont's Lake
7 Champlain Quadricentennial Commission and
8 are residents of Vermont; and

9 (D) one member shall be appointed by the
10 Secretary from among individuals who have an
11 interest in, demonstrated their support for, and
12 demonstrated expertise appropriate to, the com-
13 memoration, and are knowledgeable of the
14 Champlain Valley.

15 (2) TERM; VACANCIES.—

16 (A) TERM.—Each member of the Commis-
17 sion shall be appointed for the life of the Com-
18 mission.

19 (B) VACANCIES.—

20 (i) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the
21 Commission shall be filled in the same
22 manner in which the original appointment
23 was made.

24 (ii) PARTIAL TERM.—A member ap-
25 pointed to fill a vacancy on the Commis-

1 sion shall serve for the remainder of the
2 term for which the predecessor of the
3 member was appointed.

4 (3) MEETINGS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
6 meet—

7 (i) at least twice each year; or

8 (ii) at the call of the chairperson or
9 the majority of the members of the Com-
10 mission.

11 (B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30
12 days after the date on which all members of the
13 Commission have been appointed, the Commis-
14 sion shall hold the initial meeting of the Com-
15 mission.

16 (4) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
18 elect the chairperson and the vice chairperson
19 of the Commission on an annual basis.

20 (B) VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The vice chair-
21 person shall serve as the chairperson in the ab-
22 sence of the chairperson.

23 (5) QUORUM.—A majority of voting members of
24 the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a
25 lesser number may hold meetings.

1 (6) VOTING.—The Commission shall act only
2 on an affirmative vote of a majority of the voting
3 members of the Commission.

4 (c) DUTIES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

6 (A) plan, develop, and execute programs
7 and activities appropriate to commemorate the
8 400th anniversary of the voyage of Samuel de
9 Champlain, the first European to discover and
10 explore Lake Champlain;

11 (B) facilitate Champlain-related activities
12 throughout the United States;

13 (C) coordinate its activities with State
14 commemoration commissions and appropriate
15 Federal Government entities, including the De-
16 partments of Agriculture, Defense, State, and
17 Transportation, the Lake Champlain Basin
18 Program, the National Endowment for the Hu-
19 manities and the National Endowment for the
20 Arts, and the Smithsonian Institution;

21 (D) encourage civic, patriotic, historical,
22 educational, artistic, religious, economic, and
23 other organizations throughout the United
24 States to organize and participate in anniver-
25 sary activities to expand the understanding and

1 appreciation of the significance of the voyage of
2 Samuel de Champlain;

3 (E) provide technical assistance to States,
4 localities, and nonprofit organizations to further
5 the commemoration;

6 (F) coordinate and facilitate for the public
7 scholarly research on, publication about, and in-
8 terpretation of, the voyage of Samuel de Cham-
9 plain;

10 (G) ensure that the Champlain 2009 anni-
11 versary provides a lasting legacy and long-term
12 public benefit by assisting in the development of
13 appropriate programs and facilities;

14 (H) assist in ensuring that the observances
15 of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain are in-
16 clusive and appropriately recognize the experi-
17 ences and heritage of all people present when
18 Samuel de Champlain arrived in the Champlain
19 Valley; and

20 (I) consult and coordinate with the Lake
21 Champlain Basin Program and other relevant
22 organizations in the planning and development
23 of programs and activities for the commemora-
24 tion of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain.

1 (2) STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL PERFORM-
2 ANCE PLANS.—The Commission shall prepare a
3 strategic plan in accordance with section 306 of title
4 5, United States Code, and annual performance
5 plans in accordance with section 1115 of title 31,
6 United States Code, for the activities of the Com-
7 mission carried out under this Act.

8 (3) REPORTS.—

9 (A) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Commission
10 shall submit to the Congress an annual report
11 that contains a list of each gift, bequest, or de-
12 vise with a value of more than \$250, together
13 with the identity of the donor of each such gift,
14 bequest, or devise.

15 (B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than Sep-
16 tember 30, 2010, the Commission shall submit
17 to the Secretary a final report that contains—

18 (i) a summary of the activities of the
19 Commission;

20 (ii) a final accounting of funds re-
21 ceived and expended by the Commission;
22 and

23 (iii) the findings and recommenda-
24 tions of the Commission.

25 (d) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may—

2 (A) solicit, accept, use, and dispose of
3 gifts, bequests, or devises of money or other
4 real or personal property for the purpose of aid-
5 ing or facilitating the work of the Commission;

6 (B) appoint such advisory committees as
7 the Commission determines to be necessary to
8 carry out this Act;

9 (C) authorize any member or employee of
10 the Commission to take any action that the
11 Commission is authorized to take by this Act;

12 (D) subject to the availability of appropria-
13 tions, procure supplies, services, and property,
14 and make or enter into contracts, leases, or
15 other legal agreements, to carry out this Act,
16 except that any contracts, leases, or other legal
17 agreements made or entered into by the Com-
18 mission directly or with administrative assist-
19 ance from the Lake Champlain Basin Program
20 shall not extend beyond the date of the termi-
21 nation of the Commission;

22 (E) use the United States mails in the
23 same manner and under the same conditions as
24 other Federal agencies;

1 (F) subject to approval by the Commission
2 and the availability of appropriations, make
3 grants in amounts not to exceed \$20,000 to
4 communities, nonprofit organizations, and com-
5 memorative commissions formed by the States
6 to develop programs to assist in the commemo-
7 ration;

8 (G) subject to the availability of appropria-
9 tions, make grants in amounts not to exceed
10 \$20,000 to research and scholarly organizations
11 to research, publish, or distribute information
12 relating to the early history of the voyage of
13 Champlain; and

14 (H) provide technical assistance to the
15 States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to
16 develop programs and facilities to further the
17 commemoration.

18 (2) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION WITH
19 LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM.—The Commis-
20 sion shall coordinate and consult with the Lake
21 Champlain Basin Program in providing grants and
22 technical assistance under subparagraphs (F), (G),
23 and (H) of paragraph (1) for the conduct of activi-
24 ties relating to the commemoration of the voyage of
25 Samuel de Champlain.

1 (e) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

2 (1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COM-
3 MISSION.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
5 subparagraph (B), a member of the Commis-
6 sion shall serve without compensation.

7 (B) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of
8 the Commission who is an officer or employee
9 of the Federal Government shall serve without
10 compensation in addition to the compensation
11 received for the services of the member as an
12 officer or employee of the Federal Government.

13 (C) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the
14 Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, in-
15 cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates
16 authorized for an employee of an agency under
17 subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United
18 States Code, while away from the home or reg-
19 ular place of business of the member in the per-
20 formance of the duties of the Commission.

21 (2) STAFF.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The chairperson of the
23 Commission may, without regard to the civil
24 service laws (including regulations), appoint
25 and terminate an executive director and such

1 other additional personnel as are necessary to
2 enable the Commission to perform the duties of
3 the Commission.

4 (B) CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIREC-
5 TOR.—The employment of an executive director
6 shall be subject to confirmation by the Commis-
7 sion.

8 (3) COMPENSATION.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
10 subparagraph (B), the chairperson of the Com-
11 mission may fix the compensation of the execu-
12 tive director and other personnel without regard
13 to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter
14 III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code,
15 relating to classification of positions and Gen-
16 eral Schedule pay rates.

17 (B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of
18 pay for the executive director and other per-
19 sonnel shall not exceed the rate payable for
20 level V of the Executive Schedule under section
21 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

22 (4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT AND LAKE CHAM-
23 PLAIN BASIN PROGRAM EMPLOYEES.—

24 (A) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—At the request of
2 the Commission, the head of any Federal
3 agency may detail, on a reimbursable or
4 nonreimbursable basis, any of the per-
5 sonnel of the agency to the Commission to
6 assist the Commission in carrying out the
7 duties of the Commission under this Act.

8 (ii) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The de-
9 tail of an employee under clause (i) shall
10 be without interruption or loss of civil serv-
11 ice status or privilege.

12 (B) STATE EMPLOYEES.—The Commission
13 may—

14 (i) accept the services of personnel de-
15 tailed from States (including subdivisions
16 of States); and

17 (ii) reimburse States for services of
18 detailed personnel.

19 (C) LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM
20 EMPLOYEES.—The Commission may—

21 (i) accept the services of personnel
22 from the Lake Champlain Basin Program;
23 and

1 (ii) reimburse the Lake Champlain
2 Basin Program for services of detailed per-
3 sonnel.

4 (5) VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERV-
5 ICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31,
6 United States Code, the Commission may accept and
7 use voluntary and uncompensated services as the
8 Commission determines necessary.

9 (6) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Director of the
10 National Park Service shall provide to the Commis-
11 sion, on a reimbursable basis, such administrative
12 support services as the Commission may request.

13 (f) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-
14 TENT SERVICES.—Subject to the availability of appropria-
15 tions, the chairperson of the Commission may procure
16 temporary and intermittent services in accordance with
17 section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates
18 for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of
19 the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the
20 Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

21 (g) FACA NONAPPLICABILITY.—Section 14(b) of the
22 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not
23 apply to the Commission.

1 (h) NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this
2 section supersedes the authority of the States or the Na-
3 tional Park Service concerning the commemoration.

4 (i) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
5 on December 31, 2010, and shall transfer all documents
6 and materials of the Commission to the National Archives
7 or other appropriate Federal entity.

8 **SEC. 203. AUDIT OF COMMISSION.**

9 The Inspector General of the Department of the Inte-
10 rior shall perform an annual audit of the Commission,
11 shall make the results of the audit available to the public,
12 and shall transmit such results to the Committee on Gov-
13 ernment Reform of the House of Representatives.

14 **SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There is authorized to be appropriated \$500,000 for
16 each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011 to carry out this
17 title, of which—

18 (1) 45 percent shall be for New York activities
19 relating to the Samuel de Champlain commemora-
20 tion;

21 (2) 45 percent shall be for Vermont activities
22 relating to the Samuel de Champlain commemora-
23 tion; and

1 (3) 10 percent shall be for distribution by the
2 Commission in accordance with this Act for activities
3 relating to the commemoration.

4 **TITLE III—HUDSON-FULTON**
5 **400TH COMMEMORATION**
6 **COMMISSION**

7 **SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this title:

9 (1) **COMMEMORATION.**—The term “commemo-
10 ration” means the commemoration of—

11 (A) the 200th anniversary of Robert Ful-
12 ton’s voyage in the CLERMONT; and

13 (B) the 400th anniversary of Henry Hud-
14 son’s voyage in the HALF MOON.

15 (2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission”
16 means the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration
17 Commission established by section 302(a).

18 (3) **GOVERNOR.**—The term “Governor” means
19 the Governor of the State of New York.

20 (4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of the Interior.

22 (5) **STATE.**—The term “State”—

23 (A) means the State of New York; and

24 (B) includes agencies and entities of each
25 such State.

1 **SEC. 302. HUDSON-FULTON 400TH COMMEMORATION COM-**
2 **MISSION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
4 commission to be known as the “Hudson-Fulton 400th
5 Commemoration Commission”.

6 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be
8 composed of 16 members, of whom—

9 (A) 1 member shall be appointed by the
10 Secretary, after consideration of the rec-
11 ommendation of the Governor;

12 (B) 6 members shall be appointed by the
13 Secretary, after consideration of the rec-
14 ommendations from the Members of the House
15 of Representatives whose districts encompass
16 the Hudson River Valley;

17 (C) 2 members shall be appointed by the
18 Secretary, after consideration of the rec-
19 ommendations from the Members of the Senate
20 from New York;

21 (D) 2 members shall be employees of the
22 National Park Service, of whom—

23 (i) one shall be the Director of the
24 National Park Service (or a designee of the
25 Director); and

1 (ii) one shall be an employee of the
2 National Park Service having experience
3 relevant to the commemoration, who shall
4 be appointed by the Secretary;

5 (E) 2 members shall be appointed by the
6 Secretary from among individuals who have an
7 interest in, demonstrated their support for, and
8 demonstrated expertise appropriate to, the com-
9 memoration, of whom—

10 (i) one shall be knowledgeable of the
11 Hudson River Valley National Heritage
12 Area; and

13 (ii) one shall be knowledgeable of New
14 York City as it relates to the commemora-
15 tion;

16 (F) one member shall be the chairperson of
17 any commemorative commission formed by New
18 York, or the designee of the chairperson; and

19 (G) two members shall be appointed by the
20 Secretary, after consideration of the rec-
21 ommendation of the mayor of the City of New
22 York and after consultation with Members of
23 the House of Representatives whose districts
24 encompass the City of New York.

25 (2) TERM; VACANCIES.—

1 (A) TERM.—Each member of the Commis-
2 sion shall be appointed for the life of the Com-
3 mission.

4 (B) VACANCIES.—

5 (i) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the
6 Commission shall be filled in the same
7 manner in which the original appointment
8 was made.

9 (ii) PARTIAL TERM.—A member ap-
10 pointed to fill a vacancy on the Commis-
11 sion shall serve for the remainder of the
12 term for which the predecessor of the
13 member was appointed.

14 (3) MEETINGS.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
16 meet—

17 (i) at least twice each year; or

18 (ii) at the call of the chairperson or
19 the majority of the members of the Com-
20 mission.

21 (B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30
22 days after the date on which all members of the
23 Commission have been appointed, the Commis-
24 sion shall hold the initial meeting of the Com-
25 mission.

1 (4) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
3 elect the chairperson and the vice chairperson
4 of the Commission on an annual basis.

5 (B) VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The vice chair-
6 person shall serve as the chairperson in the ab-
7 sence of the chairperson.

8 (5) QUORUM.—A majority of voting members
9 shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may
10 hold meetings.

11 (6) VOTING.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
13 act only on an affirmative vote of a majority of
14 the voting members of the Commission.

15 (B) NONVOTING MEMBER.—The individual
16 appointed under subparagraph (D)(ii) of para-
17 graph (1) shall be a nonvoting member, and
18 shall serve only in an advisory capacity.

19 (c) DUTIES.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

21 (A) plan, develop, and execute programs
22 and activities appropriate to commemorate the
23 400th anniversary of the voyage of Henry Hud-
24 son, the first European to sail up the Hudson
25 River, and the 200th anniversary of the voyage

1 of Robert Fulton, the first person to use steam
2 navigation on a commercial basis;

3 (B) facilitate Hudson-Fulton-related activi-
4 ties throughout the United States;

5 (C) coordinate its activities with the State
6 commemoration commission and appropriate
7 Federal Government agencies, including the De-
8 partments of Agriculture, Defense, State, and
9 Transportation, the National Park Service with
10 respect to the Hudson River Valley National
11 Heritage Area, and the American Heritage Riv-
12 ers Initiative Interagency Committee estab-
13 lished by Executive Order 13061, dated Sep-
14 tember 11, 1997, the National Endowment for
15 the Humanities and the National Endowment
16 for the Arts, and the Smithsonian Institution;

17 (D) encourage civic, patriotic, historical,
18 educational, artistic, religious, economic, and
19 other organizations throughout the United
20 States to organize and participate in anniver-
21 sary activities to expand the understanding and
22 appreciation of the significance of the voyages
23 of Henry Hudson and Robert Fulton;

1 (E) provide technical assistance to States,
2 localities, and nonprofit organizations to further
3 the commemoration;

4 (F) coordinate and facilitate for the public
5 scholarly research on, publication about, and in-
6 terpretation of, the voyages of Henry Hudson
7 and Robert Fulton;

8 (G) ensure that the Hudson-Fulton 2009
9 commemorations provide a lasting legacy and
10 long-term public benefit by assisting in the de-
11 velopment of appropriate programs and facili-
12 ties; and

13 (H) assist in ensuring that the observances
14 of the voyage of Henry Hudson are inclusive
15 and appropriately recognize the experiences and
16 heritage of all people present when Henry Hud-
17 son sailed the Hudson River.

18 (2) STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL PERFORM-
19 ANCE PLANS.—The Commission shall prepare a
20 strategic plan in accordance with section 306 of title
21 5, United States Code, and annual performance
22 plans in accordance with section 1115 of title 31,
23 United States Code, for the activities of the Com-
24 mission carried out under this Act.

25 (3) REPORTS.—

1 (A) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Commission
2 shall submit to the Congress an annual report
3 that contains a list of each gift, bequest, or de-
4 vise with a value of more than \$250, together
5 with the identity of the donor of each such gift,
6 bequest, or devise.

7 (B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than Sep-
8 tember 30, 2010, the Commission shall submit
9 to the Secretary a final report that contains—

10 (i) a summary of the activities of the
11 Commission;

12 (ii) a final accounting of funds re-
13 ceived and expended by the Commission;
14 and

15 (iii) the findings and recommenda-
16 tions of the Commission.

17 (d) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may—

19 (A) solicit, accept, use, and dispose of
20 gifts, bequests, or devises of money or other
21 real or personal property for the purpose of aid-
22 ing or facilitating the work of the Commission;

23 (B) appoint such advisory committees as
24 the Commission determines to be necessary to
25 carry out this Act;

1 (C) authorize any member or employee of
2 the Commission to take any action that the
3 Commission is authorized to take by this Act;

4 (D) subject to the availability of appropria-
5 tions, procure supplies, services, and property,
6 and make or enter into contracts, leases, or
7 other legal agreements, to carry out this Act ex-
8 cept that any contracts, leases, or other legal
9 agreements made or entered into by the Com-
10 mission shall not extend beyond the date of the
11 termination of the Commission;

12 (E) use the United States mails in the
13 same manner and under the same conditions as
14 other Federal agencies;

15 (F) subject to approval by the Commission
16 and the availability of appropriations, make
17 grants in amounts not to exceed \$20,000 to
18 communities, nonprofit organizations, and com-
19 memorative commissions formed by the State to
20 develop programs to assist in the commemora-
21 tion;

22 (G) subject to the availability of appropria-
23 tions, make grants in amounts not to exceed
24 \$20,000 to research and scholarly organizations
25 to research, publish, or distribute information

1 relating to the early history of the voyages of
2 Hudson and Fulton; and

3 (H) provide technical assistance to the
4 State, localities, and nonprofit organizations to
5 develop programs and facilities to further the
6 commemoration.

7 (e) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

8 (1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COM-
9 MISSION.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
11 subparagraph (B), a member of the Commis-
12 sion shall serve without compensation.

13 (B) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of
14 the Commission who is an officer or employee
15 of the Federal Government shall serve without
16 compensation in addition to the compensation
17 received for the services of the member as an
18 officer or employee of the Federal Government.

19 (C) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the
20 Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, in-
21 cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates
22 authorized for an employee of an agency under
23 subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United
24 States Code, while away from the home or reg-

1 ular place of business of the member in the per-
2 formance of the duties of the Commission.

3 (2) STAFF.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The chairperson of the
5 Commission may, without regard to the civil
6 service laws (including regulations), appoint
7 and terminate an executive director and such
8 other additional personnel as are necessary to
9 enable the Commission to perform the duties of
10 the Commission.

11 (B) CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIREC-
12 TOR.—The employment of an executive director
13 shall be subject to confirmation by the Commis-
14 sion.

15 (3) COMPENSATION.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
17 subparagraph (B), the chairperson of the Com-
18 mission may fix the compensation of the execu-
19 tive director and other personnel without regard
20 to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter
21 III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code,
22 relating to classification of positions and Gen-
23 eral Schedule pay rates.

24 (B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of
25 pay for the executive director and other per-

1 sonnel shall not exceed the rate payable for
2 level V of the Executive Schedule under section
3 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

4 (4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

5 (A) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

6 (i) IN GENERAL.—At the request of
7 the Commission, the head of any Federal
8 agency may detail, on a reimbursable or
9 nonreimbursable basis, any of the per-
10 sonnel of the agency to the Commission to
11 assist the Commission in carrying out the
12 duties of the Commission under this Act.

13 (ii) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The de-
14 tail of an employee under clause (i) shall
15 be without interruption or loss of civil serv-
16 ice status or privilege.

17 (B) STATE EMPLOYEES.—The Commission
18 may—

19 (i) accept the services of personnel de-
20 tailed from the State (including subdivi-
21 sions of the State); and

22 (ii) reimburse the State for services of
23 detailed personnel.

24 (5) VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERV-
25 ICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31,

1 United States Code, the Commission may accept and
2 use voluntary and uncompensated services as the
3 Commission determines necessary.

4 (6) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Director of the
5 National Park Service shall provide to the Commis-
6 sion, on a reimbursable basis, such administrative
7 support services as the Commission may request.

8 (f) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-
9 TENT SERVICES.—Subject to the availability of appropria-
10 tions, the chairperson of the Commission may procure
11 temporary and intermittent services in accordance with
12 section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates
13 for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of
14 the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the
15 Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

16 (g) FACA NONAPPLICABILITY.—Section 14(b) of the
17 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not
18 apply to the Commission.

19 (h) NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this
20 section supersedes the authority of the States or the Na-
21 tional Park Service concerning the commemoration.

22 (i) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
23 on December 31, 2010, and shall transfer all documents
24 and materials of the Commission to the National Archives
25 or other appropriate Federal entity.

1 **SEC. 303. AUDIT OF COMMISSION.**

2 The Inspector General of the Department of the Inte-
3 rior shall perform an annual audit of the Commission,
4 shall make the results of the audit available to the public,
5 and shall transmit such results to the Committee on Gov-
6 ernment Reform of the House of Representatives.

7 **SEC. 304. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 There is authorized to be appropriated \$500,000 for
9 each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011 to carry out this
10 title, of which—

11 (1) 80 percent shall be for Hudson Valley ac-
12 tivities relating to the commemoration;

13 (2) 10 percent shall be for New York City ac-
14 tivities relating to the commemoration; and

15 (3) 10 percent shall be for distribution by the
16 Commission in accordance with this Act for activities
17 relating to the commemoration.

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