

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1014

To establish the Route 66 Centennial Commission, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 3, 2019

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. INHOFE) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and
Public Works

A BILL

To establish the Route 66 Centennial 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Route 66 Centennial
5 Commission Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) Route 66 was the first all-paved highway in
9 the United States under the United States Highway
10 System connecting the Midwest to California, and

1 has played a major role in the history of the United
2 States;

3 (2) Route 66 was the symbol of opportunity for
4 hundreds of thousands of people seeking escape from
5 the Dust Bowl in the 1930s, serving as a “road to
6 opportunity” in the West, and providing employment
7 during the Great Depression, as thousands were put
8 to work on road crews to pave the road;

9 (3) Route 66 was invaluable in transporting
10 troops, equipment, and supplies across the country
11 to the West, where the Federal Government estab-
12 lished multiple industries and military bases during
13 World War II, and on the conclusion of the war in
14 1945, Route 66 was a key route taken by thousands
15 of troops as they returned home;

16 (4) Route 66 symbolized the positive outlook of
17 the United States during the postwar economic re-
18 covery in the 1950s and 1960s, serving as an icon
19 of free-spirited independence and linking people
20 across the United States;

21 (5) during the 1950s and 1960s, the tourist in-
22 dustry along Route 66 grew tremendously, giving
23 rise to countless tourist courts, motels, service sta-
24 tions, garages, and diners;

1 (6) since June 27, 1985, when Route 66 was
2 decommissioned as a Federal highway, the popu-
3 larity and mythical stature of Route 66 has grown
4 domestically and internationally, as the road has ex-
5 perienced a rebirth of interest and support; and

6 (7) the year 2026 will be the centennial anni-
7 versary of Route 66, and a commission should be es-
8 tablished to study and recommend in a report to
9 Congress activities that are fitting and proper to cel-
10 ebrate that anniversary in a manner that appro-
11 priately honors the Mother Road of the United
12 States.

13 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

14 There is established a commission to be known as the
15 “Route 66 Centennial Commission” (referred to in this
16 Act as the “Commission”).

17 **SEC. 4. DUTIES.**

18 The Commission shall—

19 (1) plan, develop a list of, and carry out such
20 activities as the Commission determines to be appro-
21 priate to honor Route 66 on the occasion of its cen-
22 tennial anniversary;

23 (2) provide advice and assistance to Federal,
24 State, and local governmental agencies and civic

1 groups in carrying out activities to honor Route 66
2 on the occasion of its centennial anniversary;

3 (3) recommend activities that may be carried
4 out by the Federal Government to honor Route 66
5 on the occasion of its centennial anniversary; and

6 (4) submit to Congress reports pursuant to sec-
7 tion 8.

8 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

9 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
10 shall be composed of 15 members appointed as follows:

11 (1) 3 members, each of whom shall be an eligi-
12 ble individual described in subsection (b), appointed
13 by the President on the recommendation of the Sec-
14 retary of Transportation.

15 (2) 1 member, who shall be an eligible indi-
16 vidual described in subsection (b), appointed by the
17 President on the recommendation of the Governor of
18 Illinois.

19 (3) 1 member, who shall be an eligible indi-
20 vidual described in subsection (b), appointed by the
21 President on the recommendation of the Governor of
22 Missouri.

23 (4) 1 member, who shall be an eligible indi-
24 vidual described in subsection (b), appointed by the

1 President on the recommendation of the Governor of
2 Kansas.

3 (5) 1 member, who shall be an eligible indi-
4 vidual described in subsection (b), appointed by the
5 President on the recommendation of the Governor of
6 Oklahoma.

7 (6) 1 member, who shall be an eligible indi-
8 vidual described in subsection (b), appointed by the
9 President on the recommendation of the Governor of
10 Texas.

11 (7) 1 member, who shall be an eligible indi-
12 vidual described in subsection (b), appointed by the
13 President on the recommendation of the Governor of
14 New Mexico.

15 (8) 1 member, who shall be an eligible indi-
16 vidual described in subsection (b), appointed by the
17 President on the recommendation of the Governor of
18 Arizona.

19 (9) 1 member, who shall be an eligible indi-
20 vidual described in subsection (b), appointed by the
21 President on the recommendation of the Governor of
22 California.

23 (10) 1 member, who shall be an eligible indi-
24 vidual described in subsection (b), appointed by the
25 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

1 (11) 1 member, who shall be an eligible indi-
 2 vidual described in subsection (b), appointed by the
 3 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

4 (12) 1 member, who shall be an eligible indi-
 5 vidual described in subsection (b), appointed by the
 6 Majority Leader of the Senate.

7 (13) 1 member, who shall be an eligible indi-
 8 vidual described in subsection (b), appointed by the
 9 Minority Leader of the Senate.

10 (b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—An eligible individual
 11 referred to in subsection (a) is an individual with—

12 (1) a demonstrated dedication to educating oth-
 13 ers about the importance of historical figures and
 14 events; and

15 (2) substantial knowledge and appreciation of
 16 Route 66.

17 (c) TIME OF APPOINTMENT.—Each initial appoint-
 18 ment of a member of the Commission shall be made before
 19 the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date
 20 of enactment of this Act.

21 (d) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed for the
 22 life of the Commission.

23 (e) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall
 24 not affect the powers of the Commission but shall be filled

1 in the manner in which the original appointment was
2 made.

3 (f) BASIC PAY.—Members shall serve on the Commis-
4 sion without pay.

5 (g) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall receive
6 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
7 in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5,
8 United States Code.

9 (h) QUORUM.—7 members of the Commission shall
10 constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hear-
11 ings.

12 (i) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—The Commission shall
13 select a Chair and Vice Chair from among the members
14 of the Commission.

15 (j) MEETINGS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall meet
17 at the call of the Chair.

18 (2) LOCATION.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
20 subparagraph (B), each meeting and hearing of
21 the Commission shall be held in a location
22 along the Route 66 corridor.

23 (B) EXCEPTION.—The Commission may
24 hold a meeting or hearing in a location that is
25 not along the Route 66 corridor if, in the deter-

1 mination of the Commission, holding the meet-
 2 ing or hearing in that location is necessary to
 3 accomplish the duties of the Commission.

4 **SEC. 6. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**

5 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission may appoint and
 6 fix the pay of a Director and such additional personnel
 7 as the Commission considers to be appropriate.

8 (b) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE
 9 LAWS.—

10 (1) DIRECTOR.—The Director of the Commis-
 11 sion shall—

12 (A) be appointed subject to the provisions
 13 of title 5, United States Code, governing ap-
 14 pointments in the competitive service; and

15 (B) be paid at a rate not to exceed the rate
 16 payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule
 17 under section 5315 of title 5, United States
 18 Code.

19 (2) STAFF.—The staff of the Commission
 20 shall—

21 (A) be appointed subject to the provisions
 22 of title 5, United States Code, governing ap-
 23 pointments in the competitive service; and

24 (B) be paid in accordance with the provi-
 25 sions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chap-

1 ter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating
2 to classification and General Schedule pay
3 rates.

4 **SEC. 7. POWERS.**

5 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission
6 may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and
7 places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as
8 the Commission considers to be appropriate to carry out
9 this Act.

10 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-
11 ber or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the
12 Commission, take any action that the Commission is au-
13 thorized to take under this Act.

14 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may secure
16 directly from any Federal department or agency in-
17 formation necessary to enable the Commission to
18 carry out this Act.

19 (2) REQUIREMENT.—Subject to paragraph (3),
20 on request of the Chair of the Commission, the head
21 of a Federal department or agency shall provide to
22 the Commission the requested information.

23 (3) EXCEPTION.—Nothing in this subsection
24 shall require any Federal department or agency to

1 produce records that are subject to a common law
2 evidentiary privilege.

3 (d) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the United
4 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
5 ditions as other Federal departments and agencies.

6 (e) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—

7 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—On the request of the Com-
8 mission, the Administrator of General Services shall
9 provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis,
10 the administrative support services necessary for the
11 Commission to carry out this Act.

12 (2) **DETAILEES.**—

13 (A) **IN GENERAL.**—At the request of the
14 Commission, the head of any Federal agency or
15 department may detail to the Commission, on a
16 reimbursable basis, any employee of the agency
17 or department.

18 (B) **CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.**—The detail of
19 an employee under subparagraph (A) shall be
20 without interruption or loss of civil service sta-
21 tus or privilege.

22 (f) **GIFTS.**—The Commission may accept, use, and
23 dispose of gifts, grants, bequests, or devises of money,
24 services, or property from any public or private source for

1 the purpose of covering the costs incurred by the Commis-
2 sion in carrying out this Act.

3 **SEC. 8. REPORTS.**

4 (a) INTERIM REPORTS.—The Commission may sub-
5 mit to Congress such interim reports as the Commission
6 considers to be appropriate.

7 (b) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission
10 shall submit to the President and Congress a report
11 that includes specific recommendations for the com-
12 memoration of the centennial of Route 66 and re-
13 lated events.

14 (2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report under
15 paragraph (1)—

16 (A) shall include recommendations for the
17 allocation of financial and administrative re-
18 sponsibility among the public and private au-
19 thorities and organizations recommended for
20 participation by the Commission; and

21 (B) may recommend activities such as—

22 (i) the production, publication, and
23 distribution of books, pamphlets, films,
24 electronic publications, and other edu-
25 cational materials focusing on the history

1 and impact of Route 66 on the United
2 States and the world;

3 (ii) bibliographical and documentary
4 projects, publications, and electronic re-
5 sources;

6 (iii) conferences, convocations, lec-
7 tures, seminars, and other programs;

8 (iv) the development of programs by
9 and for libraries, museums, parks, and his-
10 toric sites, including national traveling ex-
11 hibitions;

12 (v) ceremonies and celebrations com-
13 memorating specific events;

14 (vi) the production, distribution, and
15 performance of artistic works, and of pro-
16 grams and activities, focusing on the na-
17 tional and international significance of
18 Route 66; and

19 (vii) the issuance of commemorative
20 coins, medals, certificates of recognition,
21 and postage stamps.

22 (c) FINAL REPORT.—The Commission shall submit
23 to the President and Congress a final report by not later
24 than 90 days before the termination of the Commission
25 under section 9.

1 **SEC. 9. TERMINATION.**

2 The Commission shall terminate not later than June
3 30, 2027.

4 **SEC. 10. CLARIFICATION REGARDING FUNDING.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—No additional funds are author-
6 ized to carry out the requirements of this Act.

7 (b) USE OF EXISTING FUNDS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of this Act
9 may be carried out using amounts made available to
10 the Secretary of Transportation and not otherwise
11 obligated, from accounts identified pursuant to para-
12 graph (2).

13 (2) IDENTIFICATION OF EXISTING FUNDS.—
14 The Secretary of Transportation shall identify any
15 accounts of the Secretary from which the Secretary
16 could use funds available in that account and not
17 otherwise obligated to carry out this Act.

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