

State of Louisiana  
House of Representatives

**ACT No. 54**



Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 188

BY REPRESENTATIVES EDWARDS, AUBERT, BILLIOT, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, HILL, GIROD JACKSON, MICHAEL JACKSON, SAM JONES, MCVEA, NORTON, PEARSON, POPE, PUGH, RICHARDSON, RITCHIE, AND SIMON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

AN ACT

To enact Chapter 10 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 25:571 through 576, and to enact R.S. 36:209(AA), relative to creating the West Florida Republic Commission; to provide for appointment of the commission; to provide for the powers and duties of the commission; to provide for funding of the commission; to provide a termination date for the commission; to establish the commission within the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 10 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 25:571 through 576, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 10. WEST FLORIDA REPUBLIC COMMISSION

§571. West Florida Republic Commission; purpose

The West Florida Republic Commission, hereafter referred to as the "commission", is hereby created and established in the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. The commission shall plan and develop activities appropriate to commemorate the bicentennial of the West Florida Revolt and the creation of the West Florida Republic from which the Florida Parishes of Louisiana derive their name and distinctive identity.

§572. Commission; appointments of members; officers; meetings; domicile

A.(1) The commission shall consist of twelve members, appointed as follows:

(a) One member from each of the following parishes, appointed by the parish governing authority from a list of three nominees submitted by the convention and visitors bureau of each respective parish:

(i) St. Tammany Parish.

(ii) Washington Parish.

(iii) Tangipahoa Parish.

(iv) Livingston Parish.

(v) St. Helena Parish.

(vi) West Feliciana Parish.

(vii) East Feliciana Parish.

(viii) East Baton Rouge Parish.

(b) One member appointed by the director of the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies at Southeastern Louisiana University.

(c) The director of the Louisiana State Archives.

(d) One member employed by the office of tourism, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, appointed by the lieutenant governor.

(e) One member who resides in any one of the parishes identified in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, appointed by the governor.

(2) Members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. A vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

B. The members of the commission shall elect a chairman, vice chairman, and other officers from among their number and may adopt such rules of conduct and operation as deemed necessary for carrying out the business of the commission.

C. The commission may employ such staff as necessary for the efficient operations of the business of the commission.

D. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but they may be reimbursed on a vouchered basis for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties to the extent that funds are made available for such purpose.

E. The domicile of the commission shall be the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies at Southeastern Louisiana University in Tangipahoa Parish, though the board may meet in any represented parish for the purpose of conducting business.

§573. Powers and duties

A. The commission shall:

(1) Plan and develop appropriate activities to commemorate the bicentennial of the West Florida Revolt and the establishment of the West Florida Republic.

(2) Encourage private organizations and local governments to organize and participate in bicentennial activities commemorating the unique history of the Florida Parishes.

(3) Serve as a clearinghouse for collecting and disseminating information about bicentennial events and plans in the following parishes: Washington, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, St. Helena, Livingston, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, and East Baton Rouge.

(4) Encourage the development of celebrations, commemorative days, special events, and traveling exhibits related to the West Florida Revolt and establishment of the West Florida Republic.

(5) Encourage literary and artistic endeavors related to the historic identity of the Florida Parishes, as well as development of endeavors which promote tourism related to the history and identity of the parishes.

(6) Seek cooperation, advice, and assistance from both private and public agencies and organizations, including local governments, learned societies, academic institutions, and historical, philanthropic, civic, and professional groups and associations.

§574. Funding; donations and grants

The commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of any private or public funds in the form of donations of money, grants, property, or personal services from individuals, corporations, and governments for such purposes, all in accordance with R.S. 36:810 and this Chapter.

§575. Cooperation by other state entities

All departments, commissions, boards, agencies, officers, and institutions of the state and all political subdivisions thereof shall cooperate with the commission in carrying out the purposes of this Chapter.

§576. Termination of commission

The commission shall terminate on September 23, 2011.

Section 2. R.S. 36:209(AA) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§209. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

AA. The West Florida Republic Commission (R.S. 25:571 through 576) shall be placed within the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism as provided for agencies transferred in accordance with R.S. 36:801.1.

Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.



Jim Tucker  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Joe O'Neil  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

[Signature]  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_