

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 179

H. P. 124

House of Representatives, January 27, 1959.

Referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Tardiff of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-NINE

AN ACT to Create a Commission to Commemorate the Centennial of the American Civil War.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. Purpose. It is just and right that the people of the State of Maine, remembering the valor and sacrifice of its sons, who fought and died for principles which they believed eternal, and the sons of other states who also made the supreme sacrifice for their convictions, should commemorate the 100th anniversary of the War Between the States. It is further declared that it shall be the policy of the State to perpetuate a knowledge of the deeds and traditions of a valiant people, who through the terrible ordeals of a great war, forged one nation, undivided, under God. To that end there shall be a proper observance throughout Maine of the years that wrote their history in the blood of our nation, and in its observance, to take those actions which will endure in the understanding and memory of the people of our State and those who visit with us.

Sec. 2. Commission. There is created the Maine Civil War Commission to commemorate the centennial of the American Civil War, hereafter referred to as the "commission". The commission shall be composed of 17 members including the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be ex officio members of the commission. The other members shall be appointed as follows:

I. Eight members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives from the membership thereof;

II. Four members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate from the membership thereof; and

III. Five members shall be appointed by the Governor from the State at large.

All members shall be appointed for terms to expire December 31, 1965, and vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made. The commission shall name 5 of its members to constitute an executive committee, which shall act for the commission pursuant to its direction.

The commission may appoint honorary members, and shall establish an Advisory Council, composed of such persons as it deems especially interested in the celebration of the centennial of the Civil War, to assist it in its work. The Law Librarian of the Maine State Library shall be a member of said council.

The commission shall employ an executive director and such other assistants when they may be required.

Sec. 3. Duties. It shall be the duty of the commission to develop and coordinate the plans of the public and private agencies for commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Civil War. All agencies of the State and all political subdivisions are authorized to cooperate with the commission and to grant funds, property and services to it for the furtherance of the commemoration.

With the consent of the Governor first obtained, the commission may lease or purchase lands, property and structures deemed necessary for the purposes of such commemoration. The title to property acquired shall be taken in the name of the State.

The commission is authorized to enter into contracts, provided the same have been approved by the Attorney General, and to do all things proper and necessary for the proper commemoration of the events in the Civil War which occurred in the State of Maine.

The commission is empowered to adopt an official flag, seal and other emblems for such celebration, and to copyright the same in the name of the State. With the approval of the Governor, the commission may lease or sell the title to the use of such seal and other emblems upon such terms and conditions as seem proper.

In the lease or sale of any property or right of use, the commission shall provide that the revenues therefrom shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the commission and they are hereby reappropriated to the commission for its purposes. The commission is authorized to accept donations of money, property or personal services; to cooperate with the United States, state, civic, patriotic and historical groups, and with the institutions of learning.

Sec. 4. Proclamations. The Governor is authorized and requested to issue proclamations inviting the people of the State and of the United States to participate in and observe the centennial anniversaries of the significant historic events, the commemorations of which are provided for herein.

Sec. 5. Commission expenses. The members of the commission and Advisory Council shall serve without compensation, but shall receive their actual traveling expenses incident to the discharge of their duties as provided for herein.

Sec. 6. Report. An annual report of the activities of the commission shall be furnished by the commission to the Governor and Legislature.

Sec. 7. Appropriation. There is appropriated to the commission from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$3500.00 for the expenses and operation of the commission. Any unexpended balance shall not lapse but shall remain a continuing carrying account until the purposes of this act have been accomplished.