

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Illinois Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission  
6 Act.

7 Section 5. Purpose. The American Civil War was a defining  
8 experience in the development of the United States. There is a  
9 resurgence of interest in the Civil War as shown by the  
10 publication of many printed resources and the creation of many  
11 exhibits, reenactments, research organizations, Internet and  
12 multimedia resources, historic parks, and preservation  
13 associations focused on the Civil War.

14 The years 2011 through 2015 mark the sesquicentennial of  
15 active hostilities during the American Civil War (1861-1865).  
16 The sesquicentennial of the Civil War presents a significant  
17 opportunity for Americans to recall and reflect upon the Civil  
18 War and its legacy, in a spirit of rededication and reflection,  
19 and to appreciate the sacrifice that American military members  
20 have made and are currently making to insure our nation's  
21 freedom and liberty.

22 The State of Illinois, as the home of President Abraham  
23 Lincoln, played a unique role in the events surrounding the

1 Civil War. Before the war, Lincoln had been a long-time  
2 advocate of abolition and helped to raise awareness regarding  
3 the hypocrisy that allowed slavery to exist in a nation founded  
4 on the principals that all men are created equal.

5 Lincoln's public remarks and speeches helped to define the  
6 issues of the Civil War. Lincoln's earliest public remarks  
7 following Stephen A. Douglas' speech on the Kansas-Nebraska  
8 Act, legislation repealing the Missouri Compromise that  
9 concerned the westward expansion of slavery, on October 16,  
10 1854 in Peoria set the parameters of debate. In accepting his  
11 nomination as U.S. Senate nominee, Lincoln delivered his famous  
12 House Divided Speech from the Old State Capitol in Springfield  
13 on June 16, 1858. The 7 debates between Abraham Lincoln and  
14 Stephen A. Douglas in 1858 were also important in previewing  
15 the issues of the 1860 presidential race and the Civil War. The  
16 Lincoln-Douglas Debates took place across Illinois occurring  
17 on August 21 in Ottawa, August 27 in Freeport, September 15 in  
18 Jonesboro, September 18 in Charleston, October 7 in Galesburg,  
19 October 13 in Quincy, and October 15 in Alton.

20 As the home of President Abraham Lincoln, and the source of  
21 256,297 Union officers and servicemen organized in 169 separate  
22 regiments, Illinois had a unique role in the Civil War. The  
23 contribution of almost 2,000 African-Americans, enrolled in  
24 Illinois Civil War regiments, demands special recognition.  
25 Although not offered the same opportunities for promotion as  
26 other soldiers of similar rank, African-American soldiers

1 proved to be, by Lincoln's own testimony, a decisive element in  
2 the Union's victory.

3 After President Lincoln's assassination, his body was  
4 brought to the House Chambers of the Old State Capitol to lie  
5 in state. This event marked the nation's grief for President  
6 Lincoln and the over 660,000 American's who lost their lives  
7 fighting for both sides during the Civil War. Lincoln was later  
8 interred in the Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site, and his  
9 memory is preserved and celebrated in the State-operated  
10 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

11 Section 10. Composition of the Commission. The Commission  
12 is composed of 17 members as follows:

13 (1) One member of the House of Representatives  
14 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
15 one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the  
16 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, one member  
17 of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, and  
18 one member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader  
19 of the Senate;

20 (2) One member of the public appointed by the Speaker  
21 of the House of Representatives, one member of the public  
22 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
23 Representatives, one member of the public appointed by the  
24 President of the Senate, and one member of the public  
25 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

1           (3) 3 members of the public appointed by the Governor,  
2           one of whom shall serve as the chairperson; and

3           (4) 6 ex officio members as follows:

4                   (A) the Governor or his or her designee;

5                   (B) the Director of Historic Preservation or his or  
6           her designee;

7                   (C) the Director of Natural Resources or his or her  
8           designee;

9                   (D) the Illinois State Historian or his or her  
10          designee;

11                   (E) the Director of the Lincoln Presidential  
12          Library or his or her designee; and

13                   (F) the Director of the Lincoln Home National  
14          Historic Site or his or her designee.

15           Section 15. Ex officio members. An ex officio member of the  
16          Commission vacates the person's position on the Commission if  
17          the person ceases to hold the position that qualifies the  
18          person for service on the Commission.

19           Section 20. Compensation; expenses.

20                   (a) A public member of the Commission is not entitled to  
21          compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for the travel  
22          expenses incurred by the member while transacting Commission  
23          business.

24                   (b) An ex officio member's service on the Commission is an

1 additional duty of the underlying position that qualifies the  
2 member for service on the Commission. The entitlement of an ex  
3 officio member to compensation or to reimbursement for travel  
4 expenses incurred while transacting Commission business is  
5 governed by the law that applies to the member's service in  
6 that underlying position, and any payment to the member for  
7 either purpose must be made from an appropriation that may be  
8 used for the purpose and is available to the State agency that  
9 the member serves in that underlying position.

10 Section 25. Meetings; quorum; voting.

11 (a) The Commission shall meet at least quarterly at the  
12 times and places in this State that the Commission designates.

13 (b) A majority of the members of the Commission constitute  
14 a quorum for transacting Commission business.

15 Section 30. General powers and duties of the Commission.  
16 The Commission shall:

17 (1) Work with the Illinois Historic Preservation  
18 Agency to plan and sponsor official Illinois Civil War  
19 Sesquicentennial events, programs, and activities  
20 appropriate to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the  
21 American Civil War.

22 (2) Encourage the development of programs designed to  
23 involve all citizens in activities that commemorate the  
24 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War.

1           (3) Work with the Illinois Historic Preservation  
2 Agency to develop an official Illinois Civil War  
3 Sesquicentennial logo. Official Illinois Sesquicentennial  
4 events will be authorized to display this official logo as  
5 part of their public branding and identity.

6           (4) Work with the Illinois Historic Preservation  
7 Agency to develop a website for the Commission with a link  
8 to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency's existing  
9 website commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil  
10 War.

11           (5) Prepare and submit a report to the Governor and the  
12 General Assembly no later than October 31, 2011 and each  
13 October 31 thereafter through October 31, 2014 concerning  
14 the events for the next year.

15           Section 35. Administrative support. Subject to  
16 appropriation, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency shall  
17 provide administrative and other support to the Commission.

18           Section 40. Funding. The Commission may accept monetary  
19 gifts and grants from any public or private source, to be held  
20 in a non-appropriated trust fund by the State Treasurer and  
21 expended solely for the use of the Commission in performing the  
22 Commission's powers and duties under this Act. The Commission  
23 may also accept in-kind gifts.

1           Section 45. Dissolution of the Commission. The Commission  
2 shall be dissolved on December 31, 2015, and any assets  
3 remaining in the Commission's trust fund shall be deposited  
4 into the General Revenue Fund.

5           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
6 becoming law.