



Sample Draft of the “Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Act”

AN ACT

To establish the (Name of State) Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the “Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Act”.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

- (A) Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, was one of the Nation’s most prominent leaders, demonstrating true courage during the Civil War, one of the greatest crises in the Nation’s history.
- (B) Born on February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln rose to the Presidency through a legacy of honesty, integrity, intelligence, and commitment to the United States.
- (C) With the belief that all men were created equal, Abraham Lincoln led the effort to free all slaves in the United States.
- (D) The Congress of the United States has created the “Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission” to study and recommend worthy federal activities to honor Abraham Lincoln in 2009, the year of his bicentennial.
- (E) And therefore, it is most appropriate for the (Name of State) to plan and carry out its own bicentennial tributes to Abraham Lincoln, and to coordinate those activities with those of the federal “Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission”.

SECTION 3. ESTABLISHMENT

There is established a commission to be known as the “(Name of State) Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission”, referred to in this Act as the “Commission”.

SECTION 4. DUTIES

- (A) The Commission shall have the following duties:
 - (1) To study and recommend activities that may be carried out by the (Name of State) to honor Abraham Lincoln during the year of his bicentennial;
 - (2) To educate (Name of State) residents about the life of Abraham Lincoln, most especially his years of service as the 16th President of the United States;
 - (3) To assist local governments and organizations with planning, preparation, and grant applications for bicentennial events, programs, and projects;

- (4) To plan and implement worthy activities to commemorate the bicentennial year;
- (5) To coordinate federal, state and local bicentennial activities occurring in (Name of State).

SECTION 5. MEMBERSHIP – NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT

(A) The Commission shall be composed of (#) members, as follows:

- (1) (#) members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives. Not more than (#) members appointed under this subdivision may be members of the same political party;
- (2) (#) members of the senate, to be appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate. Not more than (#) members appointed under this subdivision may be members of the same political party;
- (3) The governor or the governor's designee;
- (4) One member who is a (Name of State) designated representative to the federal Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Governor's Council, to be appointed by the governor;
- (5) (In addition, states may want to include members with tourism, education, civil rights, economic development, historical, or civic backgrounds, as Rhode Island, Kentucky, Illinois, and Indiana state commissions have done).

SECTION 6. TERMINATION

(A) The "(Name of State) Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission" shall expire on (Date).