

The House Committee on Defense and Veterans Affairs offers the following substitute to SB 203:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 13 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Secretary of State, so as create the Georgia World War I Centennial Commission; to provide
3 for the membership, powers and duties, expense reimbursement, and operations of the
4 commission; to provide for administrative assignment of the commission to the office of the
5 Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and legal services by the Attorney
6 General; to provide for the purpose of the commission; to authorize the solicitation, receipt,
7 and expenditure of appropriations and donations; to provide for reports; to provide for related
8 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Chapter 13 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Secretary
12 of State, is amended by revising Article 3, which is reserved, so as to enact a new Article 3
13 to read as follows:

14 "ARTICLE 3

15 45-13-40.

16 (a) There is created the Georgia World War I Centennial Commission. The commission
17 shall consist of two members appointed by the Governor, two members appointed by the
18 President of the Senate, and two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
19 Representatives. Each member of the commission shall serve for the existence of the
20 commission. Any vacancy on the commission shall be filled by an appointment by the
21 officer who appointed the member whose seat has become vacant.

22 (b) The chairperson of the commission and vice chairperson shall be appointed by the
23 commission from among its membership. The commission may establish such bylaws for
24 its operation as it may deem appropriate.

25 45-13-41.

26 The commission shall be attached for administrative purposes to the office of the Board of
27 Regents of the University System of Georgia. If approved by the Board of Regents, the
28 board shall provide support staff and facilities for the commission. The Attorney General
29 shall provide legal counsel to the commission and shall provide legal representation in any
30 matter involving the affairs of the commission. No additional state appropriations shall be
31 made for this commission.

32 45-13-42.

33 The purpose of the Georgia World War I Centennial Commission shall be:

34 (1) To plan, develop, and execute programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the
35 centennial of World War I and Georgia's role in it;

36 (2) To encourage private organizations and local governments in Georgia to organize and
37 participate in activities commemorating the centennial of World War I; and

38 (3) To serve as a clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of information about
39 events and plans, in Georgia, for the centennial of World War I.

40 45-13-43.

41 The commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such
42 testimony, and receive such evidence as the commission considers appropriate to carry out
43 its duties under this Act.

44 45-13-44.

45 The commission shall secure directly from any state department or agency such
46 information as the commission considers necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.
47 Upon the request of the chairperson of the commission, the head of such department or
48 agency shall furnish such information to the commission.

49 45-13-45.

50 The commission may not enter into any contract, lease, or other legal agreement that
51 extends beyond the date of the termination of the commission.

52 45-13-46.

53 Gifts, bequests, and devises of services or property, both real and personal, received by the
54 commission provided under this article shall be the only source of funds to cover the costs
55 incurred by the commission under this article. No state funds shall be appropriated for the
56 commission's operation.

57 45-13-47.

58 (a) Not later than December 31, 2015, and not later than the last day of each three-month
59 period thereafter, the commission shall submit to the General Assembly and the Governor
60 a report on the activities and plans of the commission.

61 (b) Not later than June 30, 2017, the commission shall submit to General Assembly and
62 Governor a report containing specific recommendations for commemorating the centennial
63 of World War I and coordinating related activities.

64 45-13-48.

65 The commission shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date the completion of
66 the activities under this Act honoring the centennial observation of World War I or July,
67 28, 2019, whichever date is earlier."

68 **SECTION 2.**

69 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.