

Union Calendar No.

115TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 66

[Report No. 115-]

To establish the Route 66 Centennial Commission, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to prepare a plan on the preservation needs of Route 66, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. BOST, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LONG, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. FOSTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

JULY --, 2018

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 3, 2017]

A BILL

To establish the Route 66 Centennial Commission, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to prepare a plan on the preservation needs of Route 66, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Route 66 Centennial*
5 *Commission Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 *Congress makes the following findings:*

8 (1) *Route 66 was the Nation’s first all-paved*
9 *highway under the U.S. Highway System connecting*
10 *the Midwest to California and has played a major*
11 *role in the history of the United States.*

12 (2) *Route 66 was the symbol of opportunity to*
13 *hundreds of thousands of people seeking escape from*
14 *the Dust Bowl in the 1930s, serving as a “road to op-*
15 *portunity” in the West and providing employment*
16 *during the Great Depression, as thousands were put*
17 *to work on road crews to pave the road.*

18 (3) *Route 66 was invaluable in transporting*
19 *troops, equipment, and supplies across the country to*
20 *the West, where the government established multiple*
21 *industries and armed force bases during World War*
22 *II. Upon the conclusion of the war in 1945, Route 66*
23 *was a key route taken by thousands of troops as they*
24 *returned home.*

1 (4) *Route 66 symbolized the Nation’s positive*
2 *outlook during the postwar economic recovery in the*
3 *1950s and 1960s, serving as an icon of free-spirited*
4 *independence and linking people across the United*
5 *States. During this period, the tourist industry along*
6 *Route 66 grew tremendously, giving rise to countless*
7 *tourist courts, motels, service stations, garages, and*
8 *diners.*

9 (5) *Since June 27, 1985, when Route 66 was de-*
10 *commissioned as a Federal highway, the popularity*
11 *and mythical stature of Route 66 has grown domesti-*
12 *cally and internationally, as the road has experienced*
13 *a rebirth of interest and support.*

14 (6) *The year 2026 will be the centennial anni-*
15 *versary of Route 66, and a commission should be es-*
16 *tablished to study and recommend to Congress activi-*
17 *ties that are fitting and proper to celebrate that anni-*
18 *versary in a manner that appropriately honors Amer-*
19 *ica’s Mother Road.*

20 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

21 *There is established a commission to be known as the*
22 *Route 66 Centennial Commission (referred to in this Act*
23 *as the “Commission”).*

24 **SEC. 4. DUTIES.**

25 *The Commission shall have the following duties:*

1 (1) *To study activities that may be carried out*
2 *by the Federal Government to determine whether the*
3 *activities are fitting and proper to honor Route 66 on*
4 *the occasion of its centennial anniversary, including*
5 *any of the activities described under section*
6 *8(b)(2)(B).*

7 (2) *To recommend to Congress the activities the*
8 *Commission considers most fitting and proper to*
9 *honor Route 66 on such occasion, to be carried out by*
10 *the Department of Transportation and any other en-*
11 *tity or entities within the Federal Government that*
12 *the Commission considers most appropriate to carry*
13 *out such activities.*

14 (3) *To plan and host, in cooperation with such*
15 *partners, a conference on the U.S. Numbered High-*
16 *way System, and assist in the activities of such a*
17 *conference.*

18 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

19 (a) *NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission*
20 *shall be composed of 19 members appointed as follows:*

21 (1) *Three members, each of whom shall be a*
22 *qualified citizen described in subsection (b), ap-*
23 *pointed by the President.*

24 (2) *Two members, each of whom shall be a quali-*
25 *fied citizen described in subsection (b), appointed by*

1 *the President on the recommendation of the Secretary*
2 *of Transportation.*

3 (3) *One member, who shall be a qualified citizen*
4 *described in subsection (b), appointed by the Presi-*
5 *dent on the recommendation of the Governor of Illi-*
6 *nois.*

7 (4) *One member, who shall be a qualified citizen*
8 *described in subsection (b), appointed by the Presi-*
9 *dent on the recommendation of the Governor of Mis-*
10 *souri.*

11 (5) *One member, who shall be a qualified citizen*
12 *described in subsection (b), appointed by the Presi-*
13 *dent on the recommendation of the Governor of Kan-*
14 *sas.*

15 (6) *One member, who shall be a qualified citizen*
16 *described in subsection (b), appointed by the Presi-*
17 *dent on the recommendation of the Governor of Okla-*
18 *homa.*

19 (7) *One member, who shall be a qualified citizen*
20 *described in subsection (b), appointed by the Presi-*
21 *dent on the recommendation of the Governor of Texas.*

22 (8) *One member, who shall be a qualified citizen*
23 *described in subsection (b), appointed by the Presi-*
24 *dent on the recommendation of the Governor of New*
25 *Mexico.*

1 (9) *One member, who shall be a qualified citizen*
2 *described in subsection (b), appointed by the Presi-*
3 *dent on the recommendation of the Governor of Ari-*
4 *zona.*

5 (10) *One member, who shall be a qualified cit-*
6 *izen described in subsection (b), appointed by the*
7 *President on the recommendation of the Governor of*
8 *California.*

9 (11) *Three members, each of whom shall be a*
10 *qualified citizen described in subsection (b), ap-*
11 *pointed by the President on the recommendation of*
12 *the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in con-*
13 *sultation with the minority leader of the House of*
14 *Representatives.*

15 (12) *Three members, each of whom shall be a*
16 *qualified citizen described in subsection (b), ap-*
17 *pointed by the President on the recommendation of*
18 *the majority leader of the Senate, in consultation*
19 *with the minority leader of the Senate.*

20 (b) *QUALIFIED CITIZEN.—A qualified citizen described*
21 *in this subsection is a private citizen of the United States*
22 *with—*

23 (1) *a demonstrated dedication to educating oth-*
24 *ers about the importance of historical figures and*
25 *events; and*

1 (2) *substantial knowledge and appreciation of*
2 *Route 66.*

3 (c) *TIME OF APPOINTMENT.*—*Each initial appoint-*
4 *ment of a member of the Commission shall be made before*
5 *the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date*
6 *of the enactment of this Act.*

7 (d) *CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.*—*If a member of*
8 *the Commission was appointed to the Commission as a*
9 *Member of Congress, and ceases to be a Member of Congress,*
10 *that member may continue to serve on the Commission for*
11 *not longer than the 30-day period beginning on the date*
12 *that member ceases to be a Member of Congress.*

13 (e) *TERMS.*—*Each member shall be appointed for the*
14 *life of the Commission.*

15 (f) *VACANCIES.*—*A vacancy in the Commission shall*
16 *not affect the powers of the Commission but shall be filled*
17 *in the manner in which the original appointment was*
18 *made.*

19 (g) *BASIC PAY.*—*Members shall serve on the Commis-*
20 *sion without pay.*

21 (h) *TRAVEL EXPENSES.*—*Each member shall receive*
22 *travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,*
23 *in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United*
24 *States Code.*

1 (i) *QUORUM.*—*Seven members of the Commission shall*
2 *constitute a quorum but a lesser number may hold hearings.*

3 (j) *CHAIR.*—*The President, in consultation with the*
4 *Secretary of Transportation, shall designate one member of*
5 *the Commission as Chair.*

6 (k) *MEETINGS.*—*The Commission shall meet at the call*
7 *of the Chair.*

8 **SEC. 6. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**

9 (a) *DIRECTOR.*—*The Commission may appoint and*
10 *fix the pay of a Director and such additional personnel as*
11 *the Commission considers to be appropriate.*

12 (b) *APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE*
13 *LAWS.*—

14 (1) *DIRECTOR.*—*The Director of the Commission*
15 *may be appointed without regard to the provisions of*
16 *title 5, United States Code, governing appointments*
17 *in the competitive service, and may be paid without*
18 *regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter*
19 *III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification*
20 *and General Schedule pay rates.*

21 (2) *STAFF.*—*The staff of the Commission shall be*
22 *appointed subject to the provisions of title 5, United*
23 *States Code, governing appointments in the competi-*
24 *tive service, and shall be paid in accordance with the*
25 *provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chap-*

1 *ter 53 of that title relating to classification and Gen-*
2 *eral Schedule pay rates.*

3 **SEC. 7. POWERS.**

4 *(a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission may,*
5 *for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold such hearings,*
6 *sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony,*
7 *and receive such evidence as the Commission considers to*
8 *be appropriate.*

9 *(b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-*
10 *ber or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the*
11 *Commission, take any action that the Commission is au-*
12 *thorized to take by this Act.*

13 *(c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission*
14 *may secure directly from any department or agency of the*
15 *United States information necessary to enable the Commis-*
16 *sion to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Chair of*
17 *the Commission, the head of that department or agency*
18 *shall furnish that information to the Commission.*

19 *(d) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United*
20 *States mails in the same manner and under the same condi-*
21 *tions as other departments and agencies of the United*
22 *States.*

23 *(e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon the*
24 *request of the Commission, the Administrator of General*
25 *Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable*

1 *basis, the administrative support services necessary for the*
2 *Commission to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.*

3 **SEC. 8. REPORTS.**

4 (a) *INTERIM REPORTS.*—*The Commission may submit*
5 *to Congress such interim reports as the Commission con-*
6 *siders to be appropriate.*

7 (b) *COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.*—

8 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 5 years after*
9 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission*
10 *shall submit to the President and Congress a report*
11 *incorporating specific recommendations for the com-*
12 *memoration of the centennial of Route 66 and related*
13 *events.*

14 (2) *CONTENTS OF REPORT.*—*The report under*
15 *paragraph (1)—*

16 (A) *shall include recommendations for the*
17 *allocation of financial and administrative re-*
18 *sponsibility among the public and private au-*
19 *thorities and organizations recommended for*
20 *participation by the Commission; and*

21 (B) *may recommend activities such as—*

22 (i) *the production, publication, and*
23 *distribution of books, pamphlets, films, elec-*
24 *tronic publications, and other educational*
25 *materials focusing on the history and im-*

1 *pact of Route 66 on the United States and*
2 *the world;*

3 *(ii) bibliographical and documentary*
4 *projects, publications, and electronic re-*
5 *sources;*

6 *(iii) conferences, convocations, lectures,*
7 *seminars, and other programs;*

8 *(iv) the development of programs by*
9 *and for libraries, museums, parks, and his-*
10 *toric sites, including national traveling ex-*
11 *hibitions;*

12 *(v) ceremonies and celebrations com-*
13 *memorating specific events;*

14 *(vi) the production, distribution, and*
15 *performance of artistic works, and of pro-*
16 *grams and activities, focusing on the na-*
17 *tional and international significance of*
18 *Route 66; and*

19 *(vii) the issuance of commemorative*
20 *coins, medals, certificates of recognition,*
21 *and postage stamps.*

22 *(c) FINAL REPORT.—The Commission shall submit to*
23 *the President and Congress a final report not later than*
24 *90 days before the termination of the Commission provided*
25 *in section 10.*

1 **SEC. 9. PLAN ON PRESERVATION NEEDS OF ROUTE 66.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary of Transportation,*
3 *in consultation with the Governors referred to in section*
4 *5(a), shall prepare a plan on the preservation needs of*
5 *Route 66.*

6 (b) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.*—*Not later than 3 years*
7 *after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall*
8 *submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-*
9 *ture of the House of Representatives, the Committee on En-*
10 *vironment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Presi-*
11 *dent a report containing the plan prepared under sub-*
12 *section (a).*

13 **SEC. 10. TERMINATION.**

14 *The Commission shall terminate not later than June*
15 *30, 2027.*

16 **SEC. 11. CLARIFICATION REGARDING FUNDING.**

17 *No additional funds are authorized to carry out the*
18 *requirements of this Act. Such requirements may be carried*
19 *out using amounts otherwise authorized or made available*
20 *for the Department of Transportation, except for amounts*
21 *authorized from the Highway Trust Fund.*