

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 66

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, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BOST, Mr. SIRES, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. LIPINSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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:

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

5 (2) Route 66 was the symbol of opportunity to
6 hundreds of thousands of people seeking escape from
7 the Dust Bowl in the 1930s, serving as a “road to
8 opportunity” in the West and providing employment
9 during the Great Depression, as thousands were put
10 to work on road crews to pave the road.

11 (3) Route 66 was invaluable in transporting
12 troops, equipment, and supplies across the country
13 to the West, where the government established mul-
14 tiple industries and armed force bases during World
15 War II. Upon the conclusion of the war in 1945,
16 Route 66 was a key route taken by thousands of
17 troops as they returned home.

18 (4) Route 66 symbolized the Nation’s positive
19 outlook during the postwar economic recovery in the
20 1950s and 1960s, serving as an icon of free-spirited
21 independence and linking people across the United
22 States. During this period, the tourist industry
23 along Route 66 grew tremendously, giving rise to
24 countless tourist courts, motels, service stations, ga-
25 rages, and diners.

1 (5) Since June 27, 1985, when Route 66 was
2 decommissioned as a Federal highway, the popu-
3 larity and mythical stature of Route 66 has grown
4 domestically and internationally, as the road has ex-
5 perienced a rebirth of interest and support.

6 (6) The year 2026 will be the centennial anni-
7 versary of Route 66, and a commission should be es-
8 tablished to study and recommend to Congress ac-
9 tivities that are fitting and proper to celebrate that
10 anniversary in a manner that appropriately honors
11 America’s Mother Road.

12 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

13 There is established a commission to be known as the
14 Route 66 Centennial Commission (referred to in this Act
15 as the “Commission”).

16 **SEC. 4. DUTIES.**

17 The Commission shall have the following duties:

18 (1) To study activities that may be carried out
19 by the Federal Government to determine whether
20 the activities are fitting and proper to honor Route
21 66 on the occasion of its centennial anniversary, in-
22 cluding any of the activities described under section
23 8(b)(2)(B).

24 (2) To recommend to Congress the activities
25 the Commission considers most fitting and proper to

1 honor Route 66 on such occasion, to be carried out
2 by the Department of Transportation and any other
3 entity or entities within the Federal Government
4 that the Commission considers most appropriate to
5 carry out such activities.

6 (3) To plan and host, in cooperation with such
7 partners, a conference on the U.S. Numbered High-
8 way System, and assist in the activities of such a
9 conference.

10 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

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

13 (1) Three members, each of whom shall be a
14 qualified citizen described in subsection (b), ap-
15 pointed by the President.

16 (2) Two members, each of whom shall be a
17 qualified citizen described in subsection (b), ap-
18 pointed by the President on the recommendation of
19 the Secretary of Transportation.

20 (3) One member, who shall be a qualified cit-
21 izen described in subsection (b), appointed by the
22 President on the recommendation of the Governor of
23 Illinois.

24 (4) One member, who shall be a qualified cit-
25 izen described in subsection (b), appointed by the

1 President on the recommendation of the Governor of
2 Missouri.

3 (5) One member, who shall be a qualified cit-
4 izen described in subsection (b), appointed by the
5 President on the recommendation of the Governor of
6 Kansas.

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

11 (7) One member, who shall be a qualified cit-
12 izen described in subsection (b), appointed by the
13 President on the recommendation of the Governor of
14 Texas.

15 (8) One member, who shall be a qualified cit-
16 izen described in subsection (b), appointed by the
17 President on the recommendation of the Governor of
18 New Mexico.

19 (9) One member, who shall be a qualified cit-
20 izen described in subsection (b), appointed by the
21 President on the recommendation of the Governor of
22 Arizona.

23 (10) One member, who shall be a qualified cit-
24 izen described in subsection (b), appointed by the

1 President on the recommendation of the Governor of
2 California.

3 (11) Three members, each of whom shall be a
4 qualified citizen described in subsection (b), ap-
5 pointed by the President on the recommendation of
6 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in con-
7 sultation with the minority leader of the House of
8 Representatives.

9 (12) 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 majority leader of the Senate, in consultation
13 with the minority leader of the Senate.

14 (b) QUALIFIED CITIZEN.—A qualified citizen de-
15 scribed in this subsection is a private citizen of the United
16 States with—

17 (1) a demonstrated dedication to educating oth-
18 ers about the importance of historical figures and
19 events; and

20 (2) substantial knowledge and appreciation of
21 Route 66.

22 (c) TIME OF APPOINTMENT.—Each initial appoint-
23 ment of a member of the Commission shall be made before
24 the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date
25 of the enactment of this Act.

1 (d) CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If a member
2 of the Commission was appointed to the Commission as
3 a Member of Congress, and ceases to be a Member of Con-
4 gress, that member may continue to serve on the Commis-
5 sion for not longer than the 30-day period beginning on
6 the date that member ceases to be a Member of Congress.

7 (e) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed for the
8 life of the Commission.

9 (f) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall
10 not affect the powers of the Commission but shall be filled
11 in the manner in which the original appointment was
12 made.

13 (g) BASIC PAY.—Members shall serve on the Com-
14 mission without pay.

15 (h) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall receive
16 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
17 in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5,
18 United States Code.

19 (i) QUORUM.—Seven members of the Commission
20 shall constitute a quorum but a lesser number may hold
21 hearings.

22 (j) CHAIR.—The President, in consultation with the
23 Secretary of Transportation, shall designate one member
24 of the Commission as Chair.

1 (k) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the
2 call of the Chair.

3 **SEC. 6. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**

4 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission may appoint and
5 fix the pay of a Director and such additional personnel
6 as the Commission considers to be appropriate.

7 (b) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE
8 LAWS.—

9 (1) DIRECTOR.—The Director of the Commis-
10 sion may be appointed without regard to the provi-
11 sions of title 5, United States Code, governing ap-
12 pointments in the competitive service, and may be
13 paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51
14 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relat-
15 ing to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

16 (2) STAFF.—The staff of the Commission shall
17 be appointed subject to the provisions of title 5,
18 United States Code, governing appointments in the
19 competitive service, and shall be paid in accordance
20 with the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III
21 of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification
22 and General Schedule pay rates.

23 **SEC. 7. POWERS.**

24 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission
25 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold such

1 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such
2 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission
3 considers to be appropriate.

4 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-
5 ber or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the
6 Commission, take any action that the Commission is au-
7 thorized to take by this Act.

8 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission
9 may secure directly from any department or agency of the
10 United States information necessary to enable the Com-
11 mission to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Chair
12 of the Commission, the head of that department or agency
13 shall furnish that information to the Commission.

14 (d) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United
15 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
16 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United
17 States.

18 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
19 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of Gen-
20 eral Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reim-
21 bursable basis, the administrative support services nec-
22 essary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities
23 under this Act.

1 **SEC. 8. REPORTS.**

2 (a) INTERIM REPORTS.—The Commission may sub-
3 mit to Congress such interim reports as the Commission
4 considers to be appropriate.

5 (b) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—

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

12 (2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report under
13 paragraph (1)—

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

19 (B) may recommend activities such as—

20 (i) the production, publication, and
21 distribution of books, pamphlets, films,
22 electronic publications, and other edu-
23 cational materials focusing on the history
24 and impact of Route 66 on the United
25 States and the world;

1 (ii) bibliographical and documentary
2 projects, publications, and electronic re-
3 sources;

4 (iii) conferences, convocations, lec-
5 tures, seminars, and other programs;

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

10 (v) ceremonies and celebrations com-
11 memorating specific events;

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

17 (vii) the issuance of commemorative
18 coins, medals, certificates of recognition,
19 and postage stamps.

20 (c) FINAL REPORT.—The Commission shall submit
21 to the President and Congress a final report not later than
22 90 days before the termination of the Commission pro-
23 vided 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 Infra-
9 structure of the House of Representatives, the Committee
10 on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the
11 President a report containing the plan prepared under
12 subsection (a).

13 **SEC. 10. TERMINATION.**

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

○