

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.

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## 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

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## 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-  
5perienced 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.

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