AN ACT creating a “West Virginia Centennial Commission”,
providing for its powers and duties, authorizing it to plan and create an appropriate centennial celebration, establishing a special revenue fund entitled “The West Virginia Centennial Fund” to be administered and controlled by the commission, and providing for the acceptance of appropriations, donations, gifts and contributions toward the cost of such celebration.

WHEREAS, West Virginia is one of the later states to be admitted to the Union—only thirteen states having been added since its admission; and

WHEREAS, The State of West Virginia, born of travails of the Civil War, became a state on June 20, 1863, and will therefore reach its 100th anniversary in four years; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of the Legislature that it is mete
that a centennial celebration be organized and held during the year of 1963, the purpose of which shall be to point up progress during a century of statehood, and to bring favorable attention to the State of West Virginia, its people, its resources, and its potential for the future; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

Section 1. West Virginia Centennial Commission Created; Members; Officers and Employees; Members to Be Paid Expenses; Filling of Vacancies.—There is hereby created a commission to be known as the West Virginia centennial commission, and to be composed of fifteen commissioners, as follows: The governor of West Virginia, the president of the state senate, the speaker of the house of delegates and the director of the West Virginia industrial and publicity commission, ex officio; five persons shall be appointed by the governor, two senators and one citizen, at large, shall be appointed by the president of the senate, and two delegates and one citizen, at large, shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of delegates. The commission is hereby authorized to expand its membership to include other citizens whose positions
and enterprises are deemed essential by the executive committee to the success of the centennial and its program; the total membership, however, never at any time to exceed twenty-five.

All members shall be appointed for terms to expire December thirty-first, one thousand nine hundred sixty-four, except those representing the senate and the house of delegates who shall serve as long as they remain a member of their respective body. A vacancy shall be filled by the official authorized to make the original appointment.

The members of the commission shall select a chairman, a vice chairman and a secretary from among their number. The commission shall name five of its members to constitute an executive committee. The commission shall employ an executive director and other such assistance as shall be required. Salaries shall be set by the commission.

The members of the commission shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for actual and
necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their
duties as members of the commission.

Sec. 2. Powers and Duties of the Commission.—It shall
be the duty of the commission to plan for the proper ob-
servance of West Virginia's first one hundred years of
statehood, through an exposition or expositions of its
varied resources and products as well as its industrial
and cultural achievements, to be held at some point or
points where such exposition can best be accommodated
and also enjoy easy accessibility; and to plan such other
appropriate methods for the observance of this anniver-
sary as the commission shall deem suitable and proper.

In connection therewith, the commission is authorized to
make expenditures for preliminary and final surveys,
plans, studies and designs; purchase of supplies and ma-
terials; professional fees; personal services and expenses
incurred pursuant thereto; rental and purchase of equip-
ment; construction and labor costs; advertising and pub-
licity; and for all other purposes deemed by it necessary
and incidental to the centennial celebration.

It shall also be the duty of the commission to cooperate
with historical and other groups in the purposes and plans
of said celebration; and to give due and proper considera-
tion to plans that may be submitted to them; to advise
with and encourage local and general celebrations by
schools, churches, patriotic organizations, historical so-
cieties, business, labor and civic organizations, and to do
any and all things proper and practical to make such
expositions and celebrations a pronounced success.

The commission is hereby authorized to form a non-
profit educational, civic and cultural corporation as an
instrumentality for assisting in details of the administra-
tion of the centennial observance, and all private contri-
butions to such funds and/or underwritings, shall be tax
deductible.

The commission shall make an annual report of its ac-
tivities to the Legislature.

Sec. 3. Creation of the West Virginia Centennial Fund.
—For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this
act, there is hereby created a special revenue fund en-
titled “The West Virginia Centennial Fund,” which fund
shall remain in existence only to the end of fiscal year
one thousand nine hundred sixty-four.

The commission shall have the duty of administering,
managing and controlling said fund and shall make ex-
penditures therefrom in accordance with the provisions
of article three, chapter twelve of the code of West Vir-
ginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one. Requisi-
tions for expenditures from said fund shall be signed by
either the chairman or vice chairman of the commission,
secretary, treasurer or comptroller. All such requisitions
shall require the signature of two such officers.

The commission is authorized to receive annual appro-
priations from the Legislature of West Virginia and from
counties and municipalities within the state which are
hereby authorized and empowered to make approppriations as a budget expenditure and is empowered to allow
such annual appropriations to accumulate until such time
as it becomes necessary to make expenditures therefrom.
The commission is further authorized and empowered to
solicit, encourage and request tax-deductible donations,
gifts and contributions from any source, both private and
public. All such moneys shall be deposited in “The West Virginia Centennial Fund” and expended as provided by this section.

Sec. 4. *Severability.*—If any section, subdivision, clause, sentence or paragraph in this act shall be held to be unconstitutional, the unconstitutionality thereof shall not affect the remaining parts of this act.

Sec. 5. *Act to Be Liberally Construed.*—This act being necessary for the health, welfare and convenience of the citizens of the state, it should be liberally construed to affectuate the purposes thereof.
Enr. H. B. No. 57]

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that
the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

[Signature]
Chairman Senate Committee

[Signature]
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the House of Delegates.

Takes effect [Signature] passage.

[Signature]
Clerk of the Senate

[Signature]
Clerk of the House of Delegates

[Signature]
President of the Senate

[Signature]
Speaker House of Delegates

The within [Signature] this the 21st day of [Date], 1959.

[Signature]
Governor