

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1972

ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 629

(By Mr. SPEAKER, Mr. McMANUS, and Mr. A. BRIGHT)

PASSED FEBRUARY 8 1972

In Effect JULY 1, 1972 Passage



FILED IN THE OFFICE  
JOHN D. LINDSEY, JR., CLERK  
SECRETARY OF STATE

THIS DATE 2-15-72

629

**ENROLLED**

**House Bill No. 629**

(By MR. SPEAKER, MR. McMANUS, and MR. ALBRIGHT)

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[Passed February 8, 1972; in effect July 1, 1972.]

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AN ACT to amend chapter four of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated article six, relating to the formation of a commission to study and implement the development of Blennerhassett Island as an historical, cultural and recreational facility.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That chapter four of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new article, designated article six, to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 6. BLENNERHASSETT HISTORICAL COMMISSION.**

**§4-6-1. Statement of legislative intent and purpose.**

1 The Legislature, mindful of the historical significance  
2 of the events known and believed to have occurred on  
3 scenic Blennerhassett Island, situate in the Ohio river  
4 near the city of Parkersburg, prior to, during and after  
5 its ownership by Harmon Blennerhassett, and mindful  
6 of the benefits likely to flow from a well-planned and  
7 executed program for development of educational, cul-  
8 tural and recreational attractions related to the famous  
9 Blennerhassett events, does by the enactment of this  
10 article seek to determine what, if any, assistance the  
11 state of West Virginia should provide in the planning  
12 and execution of such a program for development, what  
13 other resources are available, and if the combined effect

14 thereof can produce a result commensurate with the  
15 investment of such public and private resources as may  
16 be available.

**§4-6-2. Creation of commission, composition; appointment and terms of members.**

1 There is hereby created as a statutory body a joint  
2 committee of the Legislature to be known as "Blenner-  
3 hassett Historical Commission". The commission shall be  
4 composed of three members of the Senate, to be appointed  
5 by the president thereof, no more than two of whom shall  
6 be appointed from the same political party, and three  
7 members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed  
8 by the speaker thereof, no more than two of whom  
9 shall be appointed from the same political party. The  
10 commission shall be headed by two cochairmen, one  
11 to be selected by and from the members appointed from  
12 the Senate, and one to be selected by and from the  
13 members appointed from the House of Delegates. All  
14 members of the commission shall serve until their suc-  
15 cessors shall have been appointed as heretofore provided,  
16 except that no member's appointment shall extend be-  
17 yond the time during which such member continues  
18 as a member of the Legislature.

**§4-6-3. Powers and duties generally.**

1 During any session of the Legislature and in the in-  
2 terim between sessions, the commission shall have the  
3 power, duty and responsibility to:

4 (1) Conduct a comprehensive investigation to deter-  
5 mine what, if any, educational, cultural and recreational  
6 attractions should be developed in the state of West  
7 Virginia concerning the historical events that have oc-  
8 curred on Blennerhassett Island, the economic feasibility  
9 of such attractions, needed capital investment, avail-  
10 able or contemplated resources therefor, likely loca-  
11 tions and accessibility thereto and such other related  
12 matters as the commission deems pertinent.

13 (2) Make such written reports to the members of  
14 the Legislature between sessions thereof as the com-  
15 mission may deem advisable and on the first day of each  
16 regular session of the Legislature make an annual report

17 to the Legislature containing the commission's findings  
18 and recommendations. Included in such report should  
19 be drafts of any proposed legislation which the com-  
20 mission deems necessary to carry its recommendations  
21 into effect.

22 The commission is also expressly empowered and au-  
23 thorized to:

24 (1) Sit during any recess of the Senate and House  
25 of Delegates;

26 (2) Employ such legal, technical, investigative, cler-  
27 ical, stenographic, advisory and other personnel as it  
28 deems needed and, within limits of available funds,  
29 fix reasonable compensation of such persons and firms as  
30 may be employed;

31 (3) Consult and confer with all persons and agencies  
32 public (whether federal, state or local) and private, that  
33 may have information and data pertinent to the duties  
34 and responsibilities of the commission; and all state and  
35 local governmental personnel and agencies shall coop-  
36 erate to the fullest extent with the commission;

37 (4) Call upon any department or agency of state  
38 or local government for such services, information and  
39 assistance as it may deem advisable.

**§4-6-4. Executive sessions; hearings; sessions away from cap-  
itol.**

1 The commission shall have the power and authority  
2 to hold executive sessions for the purpose of establishing  
3 business, policy and an agenda.

4 The commission is hereby empowered and authorized  
5 to hold such hearings as may be necessary in order for  
6 it to effectuate its purposes, and all such hearings shall  
7 be open to the public.

8 The commission shall ordinarily meet at the capitol but  
9 shall have the power and authority upon the concurrence  
10 of two thirds of its total membership to meet anywhere  
11 in the state of West Virginia.

**§4-6-5. Compensation and expenses of members; other ex-  
penses; how paid; joint committee approval.**

1 The members of the commission shall receive no com-  
2 pensation for their services except that provided for mem-

3 bers thereof who are members of the joint committee  
4 on government and finance. The members of the com-  
5 mission shall receive travel, interim and out-of-state  
6 expenses, as authorized in sections six, eight and nine,  
7 article two-a, chapter four of this code. Such expenses  
8 and all other expenses including those incurred in the  
9 employment of legal, technical, investigative, clerical,  
10 stenographic, advisory and other personnel shall be paid  
11 from an appropriation to be made expressly for the  
12 Blennerhassett historical commission, but if no such ap-  
13 propriation be made in any fiscal year such expenses  
14 shall be paid from the appropriation under "Account No.  
15 103 for Joint Expenses," but no expense of any kind  
16 whatever payable under said "Account No. 103 for Joint  
17 Expenses" shall be incurred unless the approval of the  
18 joint committee on government and finance therefor  
19 is first had and obtained by the commission.

**§4-6-6. Duration of commission.**

1 Unless sooner terminated by law and until and unless  
2 extended, the Blennerhassett historical commission shall  
3 cease to exist at the adjournment sine die of both houses  
4 of the Legislature at the conclusion of its regular session  
5 in the year one thousand nine hundred seventy-four.

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

Russell H. Bruce  
Chairman Senate Committee

Phyllis J. Rutledge  
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the House.

Takes effect July 1, 1972.

Howard Robinson  
Clerk of the Senate

A. Blankenship  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

Edmund  
President of the Senate

Louis T. M. Harris  
Speaker House of Delegates

The within approved this the 14th  
day of February, 1972.

Arch A. Shouse Jr.  
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE  
GOVERNMENT

Date 2/11/72

Time 10:24 a.m.