WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1972

ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 629

(By Mr. [SIGNATURE] and Mr. [SIGNATURE])

PASSED FEBRUARY 8, 1972

In Effect July 1, 1972

[Signature]

FILING IN THE OFFICE
JOHN M. McMANUS, IV
SECRETARY OF STATE
THIS DATE 2-16-72
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 Blennerhasset 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 of the events known and believed to have occurred on scenic Blennerhasset Island, situate in the Ohio river near the city of Parkersburg, prior to, during and after its ownership by Harmon Blennerhasset, and mindful of the benefits likely to flow from a well-planned and executed program for development of educational, cultural and recreational attractions related to the famous Blennerhasset events, does by the enactment of this article seek to determine what, if any, assistance the state of West Virginia should provide in the planning and execution of such a program for development, what other resources are available, and if the combined effect
thereof can produce a result commensurate with the investment of such public and private resources as may be available.

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

There is hereby created as a statutory body a joint committee of the Legislature to be known as "Blennerhassett Historical Commission". The commission shall be composed of three members of the Senate, to be appointed by the president thereof, no more than two of whom shall be appointed from the same political party, and three members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the speaker thereof, no more than two of whom shall be appointed from the same political party. The commission shall be headed by two cochairmen, one to be selected by and from the members appointed from the Senate, and one to be selected by and from the members appointed from the House of Delegates. All members of the commission shall serve until their successors shall have been appointed as heretofore provided, except that no member's appointment shall extend beyond the time during which such member continues as a member of the Legislature.

§4-6-3. Powers and duties generally.

During any session of the Legislature and in the interim between sessions, the commission shall have the power, duty and responsibility to:

1. Conduct a comprehensive investigation to determine what, if any, educational, cultural and recreational attractions should be developed in the state of West Virginia concerning the historical events that have occurred on Blennerhassett Island, the economic feasibility of such attractions, needed capital investment, available or contemplated resources therefor, likely locations and accessibility thereto and such other related matters as the commission deems pertinent.

2. Make such written reports to the members of the Legislature between sessions thereof as the commission may deem advisable and on the first day of each regular session of the Legislature make an annual report
to the Legislature containing the commission's findings and recommendations. Included in such report should be drafts of any proposed legislation which the commission deems necessary to carry its recommendations into effect.

The commission is also expressly empowered and authorized to:

1. Sit during any recess of the Senate and House of Delegates;
2. Employ such legal, technical, investigative, clerical, stenographic, advisory and other personnel as it deems needed and, within limits of available funds, fix reasonable compensation of such persons and firms as may be employed;
3. Consult and confer with all persons and agencies public (whether federal, state or local) and private, that may have information and data pertinent to the duties and responsibilities of the commission; and all state and local governmental personnel and agencies shall cooperate to the fullest extent with the commission;
4. Call upon any department or agency of state or local government for such services, information and assistance as it may deem advisable.

§4-6-4. Executive sessions; hearings; sessions away from capitol.

1. The commission shall have the power and authority to hold executive sessions for the purpose of establishing business, policy and an agenda.
2. The commission is hereby empowered and authorized to hold such hearings as may be necessary in order for it to effectuate its purposes, and all such hearings shall be open to the public.
3. The commission shall ordinarily meet at the capitol but shall have the power and authority upon the concurrence of two thirds of its total membership to meet anywhere in the state of West Virginia.

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

1. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services except that provided for mem-
bers thereof who are members of the joint committee on government and finance. The members of the commission shall receive travel, interim and out-of-state expenses, as authorized in sections six, eight and nine, article two-a, chapter four of this code. Such expenses and all other expenses including those incurred in the employment of legal, technical, investigative, clerical, stenographic, advisory and other personnel shall be paid from an appropriation to be made expressly for the Blennerhassett historical commission, but if no such appropriation be made in any fiscal year such expenses shall be paid from the appropriation under “Account No. 103 for Joint Expenses,” but no expense of any kind whatever payable under said “Account No. 103 for Joint Expenses” shall be incurred unless the approval of the joint committee on government and finance therefor is first had and obtained by the commission.

§4-6-6. Duration of commission.

Unless sooner terminated by law and until and unless extended, the Blennerhassett historical commission shall cease to exist at the adjournment sine die of both houses of the Legislature at the conclusion of its regular session 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 F. Bence  
Chairman Senate Committee

Philp H. Rutledge  
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the House.

Takes effect July 1, 1972.

Howard E. Carson  
Clerk of the Senate

W. Blankenship  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

Ed Whitfill  
President of the Senate

Lewis F. M. Manvey  
Speaker House of Delegates

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

Arch A. Blankenship  
Governor
PRESENTED TO THE
GOVERNMENT

Date: 2/11/72

Time: 10:24 a.m.