



State of Tennessee
PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 1064

SENATE BILL NO. 1504

By Southerland, Overbey

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1788

By Kernell, Hawk, Lollar, Ragan, Eldridge, Shepard, Matheny, Hall, Faison, McCormick, McManus, Weaver, Maggart, Haynes, Stewart, Hensley, Swann, Womick, Halford, Richardson, Carr, Holt, Todd, Coley, Wirgau, White

AN ACT to create the David Crockett Commission.

WHEREAS, David Crockett is one of Tennessee's most notable native sons, because of his legendary volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, David Crockett is revered as a pioneer, frontiersman, public servant, statesman, backwoods orator, and most of all, a man of the people, and he will always be remembered as a heroic participant in the Battle of the Alamo, in which he made the ultimate sacrifice of his life to preserve the independence of the Republic of Texas; and

WHEREAS, epitomized as a true Renaissance man, David Crockett engaged in a variety of occupations over his lifetime, including that of farming, trapping, hunting, milling, distilling, and in political and military activities; and

WHEREAS, born in Greene County on August 17, 1786, David Crockett moved several times over his lifetime, while living in Tennessee, he also domiciled in Jefferson County, Lincoln County, Franklin County, Lawrence County, and Gibson County; and

WHEREAS, his record of volunteerism is lengthy and quite impressive: from 1813-15, he volunteered his services to fight in the Creek Indian Wars, a part of the War of 1812, entering the war as a Private and coming home as a Fourth Sergeant in the Tennessee Volunteer Mounted Riflemen; and

WHEREAS, from 1817-20, he served as a Magistrate of, and on the town council in, Lawrenceburg, and was elected to be a Colonel in the 57th Militia Regiment of Lawrence County; David Crockett was elected to the Tennessee State Legislature, where he astutely represented Lawrence and Hickman counties and was subsequently reelected in 1823, but lost the 1825 election; and

WHEREAS, in 1827, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives to represent the Northwestern District of Tennessee; he earned his bid for reelection in 1829, was defeated in 1831, but came back to be reelected in 1833, prior to his unsuccessful bid for Congress in 1835; and

WHEREAS, it was after his final bid for Congress that he set out on his western journey and ultimate destination of Texas, and thus helped to secure Texas' independence from Mexico; it was on March 6, 1836, that he made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom at the Battle of the Alamo; and

WHEREAS, since David Crockett's death, many Tennesseans have followed his example; in every major war, Tennessee has led the way in the number of volunteers who have stepped forward to serve their Country; and

WHEREAS, because of his iconic stature throughout the world and his varied and productive life that has come to personify the Volunteer State, it is most appropriate that David Crockett should be memorialized by his home state, the great State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. There is created the David Crockett Commission, hereinafter "the commission," to identify ways and means and raise the necessary funds to erect a monument or statue honoring

David Crockett on the grounds of the State Capitol as a permanent tribute to one of Tennessee's most prominent citizens throughout its history.

SECTION 2. (a) The commission shall be composed of nine (9) citizen members: five (5) members to be appointed by the governor, two (2) members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and two (2) members to be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate. The governor shall designate one (1) member to serve as chair of the commission. Vacancies shall be filled by the original appointing authority. Members of the commission shall not receive travel expenses or compensation for their service; however, members of the commission may receive compensation or reimbursement for travel expenses from private sources.

(b) Of the members appointed to the commission:

(1) One (1) shall be a member of a Tennessee historical society or organization;

(2) One (1) shall be an employee or director of a public museum with experience relative to commissioned projects;

(3) One (1) shall have experience in fundraising for historical, artistic, or educational organizations or projects; and

(4) One (1) shall be a resident of the eastern grand division from an area of David Crockett's birthplace or where he enjoyed his early childhood who is a member of a group that studies or celebrates David Crockett on an ongoing basis.

SECTION 3. The commission shall consult with the State Capitol Commission relative to all aspects of the monument or statue honoring David Crockett, and the State Capitol Commission must give final approval of the design of such monument or statue prior to its erection.

SECTION 4. The monument or statue of David Crockett shall be erected using private funds solely, and no state funds shall be expended for such project.

SECTION 5. Within thirty (30) days of the erection of the monument or statue in accordance with this act the David Crockett Commission shall submit to the governor, the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the Chairs of the House and Senate Government Operations Committees a complete and detailed report setting forth its operation and accomplishments, at which time the commission shall cease to exist.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 1504

PASSED: May 1, 2012



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 21st day of May 2012



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR