

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025

SR 40

4
5 By: Senator Hester

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8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 TO RECOGNIZE, SUPPORT, AND ENCOURAGE THE ARKANSAS 250
10 COMMISSION AS IT BEGINS ITS WORK TO CELEBRATE
11 ARKANSAS'S RICH TWO-HUNDRED-FIFTY-YEAR HISTORY FROM
12 THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ON
13 JULY 4, 1776, THROUGH JULY 4, 2026.

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16 **Subtitle**

17 TO RECOGNIZE, SUPPORT, AND ENCOURAGE THE
18 ARKANSAS 250 COMMISSION AS IT BEGINS ITS
19 WORK TO CELEBRATE ARKANSAS'S RICH TWO-
20 HUNDRED-FIFTY-YEAR HISTORY FROM THE
21 SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF
22 INDEPENDENCE THROUGH JULY 4, 2026.

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24 WHEREAS, on July 4, 2026, the United States of America will celebrate
25 the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of
26 Independence; and

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28 WHEREAS, the United States Congress established the United States
29 Semiquincentennial Commission, which is working with America250.org, Inc., to
30 plan and orchestrate this great occasion, and the United States Congress is
31 encouraging states to join and participate in this celebration of the United
32 States of America; and

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34 WHEREAS, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders created the Arkansas 250
35 Commission to plan, organize, and coordinate Arkansas's celebration
36 activities and events leading up to and on July 4, 2026; and



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2 WHEREAS, Arkansas and the territory that preceded it have a rich two-
3 hundred-fifty-year history to commemorate; and

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5 WHEREAS, in 1776, Arkansas was part of the Louisiana Territory and home
6 to Native Americans and early European settlers; and

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8 WHEREAS, in 1783, a Revolutionary War battle was fought at Arkansas
9 Post; and

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11 WHEREAS, in 1803, the land that would become Arkansas officially became
12 a part of the United States of America via the acquisition known as the
13 Louisiana Purchase; and

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15 WHEREAS, Arkansas officially became a territory of the United States of
16 America in 1819 and achieved statehood in 1836; and

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18 WHEREAS, in the one hundred eighty-nine (189) years since achieving
19 statehood, Arkansas has played a part in the history of our great nation and
20 is rich with stories to tell, legends to recognize, and achievements to
21 celebrate; and

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23 WHEREAS, this semiquincentennial event is a once-in-a-generation
24 opportunity to engage children, students, and adults in educational
25 activities, civic engagement, and public service opportunities,

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27 NOW THEREFORE,

28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
29 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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31 THAT the Senate recognize, support, and encourage the Arkansas 250
32 Commission as it begins its work to celebrate Arkansas's rich two-hundred-
33 fifty-year history from the signing of the Declaration of Independence on
34 July 4, 1776, through July 4, 2026.

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Senate encourage all educational

1 institutions, civic organizations, and all of Arkansas to join this
2 celebration of our state's magnificent history and achievements in a series
3 of events and activities that will culminate on July 4, 2026.

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be
6 presented to each of the fifteen (15) members of the Arkansas 250 Commission
7 by the Secretary of the Senate.

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