

**House File 2689 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2689  
BY COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH  
AND TECHNOLOGY

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 742)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the  
2 signing of the Declaration of Independence, and including  
3 effective date provisions.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known and may be  
2 cited as the "Framework for Iowa's America 250 Celebration Act".

3 Sec. 2. SALES TAX HOLIDAY — AMERICA'S TWO HUNDRED FIFTIETH  
4 ANNIVERSARY.

5 1. There is exempted from the provisions of chapter 423,  
6 subchapter II, and from the computations of the amount of tax  
7 imposed, the sales price from the sale of an article of clothing  
8 designed to be worn on or about the human body if all of the  
9 following apply:

10 a. The sales price of the article is less than one hundred  
11 dollars.

12 b. The sale takes place on July 3, 2026, July 4, 2026, or  
13 July 5, 2026.

14 2. This section does not apply to any of the following:

15 a. Sport or recreational equipment and protective equipment.

16 b. Clothing accessories or equipment.

17 c. The rental of clothing.

18 3. For purposes of this section:

19 a. "Clothing" means all human wearing apparel suitable for  
20 general use.

21 (1) "Clothing" includes but is not limited to the following:  
22 aprons, household and shop; athletic supporters; baby receiving  
23 blankets; bathing suits and caps; beach capes and coats; belts  
24 and suspenders; boots; coats and jackets; costumes; earmuffs;  
25 footlets; formal wear; garters and garter belts; girdles; gloves  
26 and mittens for general use; hats and caps; hosiery; insoles  
27 for shoes; lab coats; neckties; overshoes; pantyhose; rainwear;  
28 rubber pants; sandals; scarves; shoes and shoelaces; slippers;  
29 sneakers; socks and stockings; steel-toed shoes; underwear;  
30 uniforms, athletic and nonathletic; and wedding apparel.

31 (2) "Clothing" does not include the following: belt buckles  
32 sold separately; costume masks sold separately; patches and  
33 emblems sold separately; sewing equipment and supplies (including  
34 but not limited to knitting needles, patterns, pins, scissors,  
35 sewing machines, sewing needles, tape measures, and thimbles);

1 and sewing materials that become part of clothing (including but  
2 not limited to buttons, fabric, lace, thread, yarn, and zippers).

3 b. "Clothing accessories or equipment" means incidental items  
4 worn on the person or in conjunction with clothing. "Clothing  
5 accessories or equipment" includes but is not limited to the  
6 following: briefcases; cosmetics; hair notions (including but  
7 not limited to barrettes, hair bows, and hair nets); handbags;  
8 handkerchiefs; jewelry; sunglasses, nonprescription; umbrellas;  
9 wallets; watches; and wigs and hairpieces.

10 c. "Protective equipment" means items for human wear and  
11 designed as protection for the wearer against injury or disease  
12 or as protection against damage or injury of other persons  
13 or property but not suitable for general use. "Protective  
14 equipment" includes but is not limited to the following:  
15 breathing masks; clean room apparel and equipment; ear and  
16 hearing protectors; face shields; hard hats; helmets; paint or  
17 dust respirators; protective gloves; safety glasses and goggles;  
18 safety belts; tool belts; and welders gloves and masks.

19 d. "Sport or recreational equipment" means items designed  
20 for human use and worn in conjunction with an athletic or  
21 recreational activity that are not suitable for general use.  
22 "Sport or recreational equipment" includes but is not limited to  
23 the following: ballet and tap shoes; cleated or spiked athletic  
24 shoes; gloves (including but not limited to baseball, bowling,  
25 boxing, hockey, and golf); goggles; hand and elbow guards; life  
26 preservers and vests; mouth guards; roller and ice skates; shin  
27 guards; shoulder pads; ski boots; waders; and wetsuits and fins.

28 Sec. 3. AMERICA 250 TASK FORCE. The members of the  
29 governor's task force celebrating America's 250th birthday  
30 established by Executive Order No. 16 shall do all of the  
31 following:

32 1. Decorate the capitol complex for the period beginning  
33 November 16, 2026, and ending January 9, 2027, by doing all of  
34 the following:

35 a. Creating a program for children in the state to submit

1 ornaments for display on a Christmas tree at the capitol  
2 building.

3 b. Procuring either one Christmas tree that is at least  
4 thirty feet tall or at least ten Christmas trees for display  
5 throughout the interior of the capitol building.

6 c. Obtaining new Christmas tree decorations that celebrate  
7 unique features of the state and new Christmas lights.

8 d. Decorating the grand staircase and placing live  
9 poinsettias throughout the capitol building.

10 2. Organize events to celebrate the strengths of the United  
11 States in at least five locations in the state during July 2026.

12 3. Coordinate with qualified nonprofit organizations with  
13 demonstrated experience creating large-scale patriotic and  
14 veteran memorial artwork for the creation of such artwork.

15 4. Organize an interactive, educational display to tour  
16 throughout Iowa during the 2026 and 2027 calendar years that  
17 honors every United States president. The display must form the  
18 shape of the number two hundred fifty and be visible from the  
19 air.

20 5. Organize a celebration at the capitol building on July  
21 4, 2026, that celebrates the two hundred fiftieth anniversary  
22 of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, as well as  
23 the anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, which Thomas Jefferson  
24 announced on July 4, 1803, and the establishment of the Iowa  
25 Territory on July 4, 1838.

26 Sec. 4. CONSTITUTION DAY INSTRUCTION. Every public  
27 elementary school, middle school, and high school shall provide  
28 instruction and activities related to the Constitution of the  
29 United States on September 17, 2026.

30 Sec. 5. PUBLIC BROADCASTING. The Iowa public broadcasting  
31 board shall provide for the broadcast of educational programming  
32 during the 2026 and 2027 calendar years related to the United  
33 States and featuring the state-sponsored events commemorating  
34 the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the  
35 Declaration of Independence.



1 celebrating 250 to provide for the decoration of the capitol  
2 building from November 16, 2026, through January 9, 2027, and to  
3 create a program for children in the state to submit ornaments  
4 for display on a Christmas tree. The task force must also  
5 organize various events, including a touring display that honors  
6 the United States presidents, and coordinate with qualified  
7 nonprofit organizations for the creation of large-scale patriotic  
8 and veteran memorial artwork.

9 On September 17, 2026, every public elementary school, middle  
10 school, and high school must provide instruction and activities  
11 related to the Constitution of the United States.

12 The bill requires the Iowa public broadcasting board to  
13 broadcast educational programming during the 2026 and 2027  
14 calendar years about the United States and featuring the  
15 state-sponsored events commemorating the anniversary of the  
16 signing of the Declaration of Independence.

17 The bill requires the department of administrative services,  
18 in consultation with the capitol planning commission, to  
19 authorize the placement of a monument honoring the 250th  
20 anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on  
21 the capitol complex grounds. The bill requires the department  
22 to solicit and approve an application for the monument.  
23 If more than one application is submitted, the department,  
24 in consultation with the capitol planning commission, shall  
25 approve the application that can best meet the requirements for  
26 construction and maintenance of the monument.

27 The bill takes effect upon enactment.