The statehood celebration is slated to run from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, 2012.

Vezinot said the commission wants to begin the celebration early to coincide with the beginning of the school year.

She said the state is working on lesson plans to teach students from kindergarten to 12th grade about Louisiana's history.

The calendar of events includes:
- A gala in March.
- A celebration of the state's food, music, art and culture on April 28.
- A birthday cake at the State Capitol on April 30.
- An August parade in New Orleans similar to the one that state officials held in 1912 for Louisiana's 100th birthday.

Also planned are a compilation of Louisiana music, an art history book, a commemorative coin, a traveling exhibit of artifacts and a time capsule.

The commission is in charge of raising money for the celebration.

State money problems are limiting the amount of public dollars for the events.

The Jindal administration directed Dardene to use money given to the state by BP for marketing the seafood and tourism industry in the wake of last year's oil leak.

In the weeks leading up to the session, Dardene pushed for state funds to help pay for the celebration. He said he is now willing to use BP dollars.

Retired Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, the head of the bicentennial commission, raised the funding issue at the Foundation for Historical Louisiana's 35th Preservation Awards Banquet in Baton Rouge earlier this month.

Vezinot said he left with more than $250 in cash.

The state income tax check-off proposed by Walsworth allows taxpayers to donate their refunds to the Louisiana Bicentennial Commission and to the Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial Commission.

In the 2009 tax year, state income tax check-offs generated $341,521 in donations for military families, coastal protection, animal welfare and other causes.

Walsworth, R-West Monroe, said he could not ask for state funding when museums, health care and education were being cut. He said a dollar from every taxpayer would help both celebrations.

The check-off is effective for five years, beginning with the 2011 tax year.

"We're probably going to have expenses that we might be able to repay," Walsworth said.