

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 739

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

PUBLIC BUILDINGS/GROUNDS: Provides for placement of a statue of Oscar James  
Dunn in the State Capitol

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 49:149.65, relative to public buildings and grounds; to provide for the erection  
3 of a statue memorializing Oscar James Dunn within Memorial Hall; to provide for  
4 funds for the establishment and maintenance of the statue; to provide for the  
5 establishment of a commission; to provide for expiration of the commission; and to  
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 49:149.65 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §149.65 Oscar James Dunn Memorial Statue

10 A. There shall be placed within Memorial Hall, in a prominent place, a  
11 memorial statue of the first African-American lieutenant governor, Oscar James  
12 Dunn, who served Louisiana from 1865 until 1871, subject to the available funds for  
13 its planning, construction, and maintenance.

14 B.(1) In recognition of Oscar James Dunn, the chairman of the Legislative  
15 Black Caucus, speaker of the House of Representatives, and the president of the  
16 Senate shall choose a prominent place within Memorial Hall to display the memorial  
17 statue of Oscar James Dunn. The design, content, and location of the statue shall be  
18 subject to the approval of the Oscar James Dunn Memorial Commission.

19 (2) There is hereby created in the state treasury, as a special fund, the Oscar  
20 Dunn Memorial Fund, referred to in this Section as the "fund". Monies in the fund

1 shall be invested in the same manner as monies in the state general fund. Interest  
2 earned on the investment of monies in the fund shall be deposited in and credited to  
3 the fund. Monies in the fund shall be administered by the lieutenant governor and  
4 used solely to provide funding for the Oscar Dunn Memorial pursuant to this Section.  
5 The funds shall be used for funding the design, content, construction, and  
6 maintenance of the Oscar James Dunn statue in Memorial Hall.

7 C.(1) There is hereby created the Oscar James Dunn Memorial Commission  
8 within the legislative branch of state government. The commission shall consist of  
9 the following members:

10 (a) Five living descendants of the first degree of Oscar James Dunn, or their  
11 designees.

12 (b) The member of the House of Representatives from House District 93.

13 (c) The member of the Senate from Senate District 4.

14 (2) The first meeting of the commission shall occur during the month of  
15 September of 2022 and shall be called and presided over by the member who is a  
16 member of the House of Representatives. At such meeting the commission shall  
17 select its chairman and any other officers it deems necessary. The commission shall  
18 meet as necessary thereafter to carry out its duties. Members of the commission shall  
19 serve without compensation, except that legislative members shall receive such  
20 compensation and reimbursement as is allowed by the rules of each member's  
21 respective house of the legislature.

22 (3) The duties of the commission include:

23 (a) Making recommendations regarding and approving the design and  
24 content of the memorial statue in accordance with state law.

25 (b) Making recommendations regarding and approving the location of the  
26 memorial statue.

27 (4) The provisions of this Subsection shall expire on September 1, 2027, and  
28 the commission shall be abolished on such date.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 739 Original

2022 Regular Session

Lyons

**Abstract:** Provides for the erection of the Oscar James Dunn statue within Memorial Hall in the State Capitol.

Proposed law provides the Oscar James Dunn memorial statue be erected in Memorial Hall of the La. State Capitol.

Proposed law provides for a special fund in the treasury to be administered by the lieutenant governor.

Proposed law creates the Oscar James Dunn Memorial Statue Commission within the legislative branch of state government. Provides that the commission is composed of the following:

- (1) Five living decedents of Oscar James Dunn or their designees.
- (2) The member of the House of Representatives from House District 93.
- (3) The member of the Senate from Senate District 4.

Proposed law provides the duties of the commission include making recommendations regarding and approving the design, content, and location of the memorial statue.

Proposed law provides that the first commission meeting shall occur during Sept. 2022 and be called and presided over by the member of the House of Representatives.

Proposed law requires the commission at its first meeting to select its chairman and other officers.

Proposed law provides that the members serve without compensation, except that legislative members shall receive compensation and reimbursement as allowed by the rules of each such member's respective house.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of proposed law which provide for the commission expire on Sept. 1, 2027, and the commission shall be abolished on that date.

(Adds R.S. 49:149.65)