

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1215

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

CULTURE/REC/TOUR DEPT: Provides relative to the disposition of certain historical statues and monuments

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 25:915, relative to historical statues and monuments; to provide relative to the
3 disposition of certain historical statues and monuments; to provide relative to the
4 powers and duties of the office of state parks within the Department of Culture,
5 Recreation and Tourism; to require certain historical statues and monuments to be
6 transferred to the office of state parks; to provide for placement and display of such
7 historical statues and monuments; to provide for definitions; to provide for the
8 promulgation of rules; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 25:915 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §915. Disposition of certain historical statues and monuments

12 A. As used in this Section, the following terms shall have the following
13 meanings:

14 (1) "Public entity" means the state or any political subdivision, including any
15 agency, board, or commission thereof.

16 (2) "Historical statue or monument" means any statue, memorial, marker, or
17 commemorative structure owned by a public entity and located on public property
18 for the purpose of commemorating a historical person, event, or era.

19 (3) "Office of state parks" means the office of state parks within the
20 Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

1 B.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any historical
2 statue or monument owned by a public entity that is removed from public display on
3 or after the effective date of this Section shall be transferred to the office of state
4 parks.

5 (2) The transfer shall include all rights of custody and control.

6 (3) The public entity shall be responsible for coordinating and completing
7 delivery of the historical statue or monument to the office of state parks.

8 C.(1) The office of state parks shall designate and maintain a location within
9 the state park system for the placement of historical statues or monuments
10 transferred pursuant to this Section.

11 (2) The office of state parks shall determine the placement and manner of
12 display with due regard for preservation and public access.

13 D. The office of state parks shall provide interpretive signage or materials
14 for each historical statue or monument that present accurate historical context,
15 including the subject commemorated and the circumstances of its original placement
16 and subsequent removal.

17 E. The office of state parks may promulgate rules in accordance with the
18 Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of this Section.

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)]

HB 1215 Original

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Bayham

Abstract: Transfers custody and control of historical statues and monuments that are removed from public display to the office of state parks within the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Proposed law provides the following definitions:

- (1) "Public entity" means the state or any political subdivision, including any agency, board, or commission thereof.
- (2) "Historical statue or monument" means any statue, memorial, marker, or commemorative structure owned by a public entity and located on public property for the purpose of commemorating a historical person, event, or era.

- (3) "Office of state parks" means the office of state parks within the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Proposed law requires any publicly-owned historical statue or monument that is removed from public display on or after the effective date of proposed law to be transferred to the office of state parks, including all rights of custody and control.

Proposed law requires the office of state parks to designate and maintain a location within the state park system for the placement of historical statues or monuments transferred pursuant to proposed law. Requires the office to determine the placement and manner of display with due regard for preservation and public access. Requires the office to provide signage or materials that provide accurate historical context, including the subject commemorated and the circumstances of its original placement and subsequent removal.

Proposed law authorizes the office of state parks to promulgate rules in accordance with present law (Administrative Procedure Act) to implement the provisions of proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 25:915)