

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 725

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

PUBLIC BLDGS/GROUNDS-ST: Provides relative to the burial of certain persons on the state capitol grounds

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 49:150.3, relative to the grounds of the state capitol complex; to provide for  
3 the interment of former governors; to provide a procedure for the approval of the  
4 interment of a former governor on the state capitol grounds; to provide for the  
5 functions and duties of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism relative  
6 thereto; to provide for the authority of certain legislative officials relative thereto;  
7 and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 49:150.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §150.3. Capitol Grounds Gubernatorial Memorial; authorization; restrictions

11 A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, if a request  
12 for interment of a former governor of the state of Louisiana on the grounds of the  
13 state capitol is made either by notarial testament or declaration by the decedent or  
14 by an authorized person or persons in accordance with R.S. 8:655, and burial space  
15 is available as provided in this Section, the interment of the former governor of the  
16 state of Louisiana on the grounds of the state capitol is authorized in the manner  
17 provided in this Section.

18 B.(1) Space on the grounds for gubernatorial interment shall be limited to the  
19 grounds in front the state capitol, also known as the Capitol Gardens, between each  
20 middle sidewalk that extends perpendicular from the sidewalk that is adjacent to the

1 front parking lot to the sidewalk that is adjacent to Spanish Town Road and each  
2 outer sidewalk that extends perpendicular from the sidewalk that is adjacent to the  
3 front parking lot to the sidewalk that is adjacent to Spanish Town Road, but shall not  
4 include the space between the two middle sidewalks which includes the memorial  
5 and burial site of Governor Huey P. Long.

6 (a) Any tombstone, marker, or other similar memorial shall be white granite  
7 and shall be limited in size to no more than nine square feet.

8 (b) The burial plot shall be limited to a space of no more than ten feet long  
9 by ten feet wide.

10 (2) No provision of this Section shall be interpreted or construed to authorize  
11 or permit any additional sidewalks to be constructed within the front grounds of the  
12 state capitol.

13 C. All plans for a gubernatorial interment and memorial shall be submitted  
14 to the division of historic preservation, office of cultural development, Department  
15 of Culture, Recreation and Tourism for review in accordance with R.S. 25:781 et  
16 seq. If the division deems that the proposed interment and planned memorial is in  
17 keeping with the historic character of the state capitol and its grounds, the division  
18 shall forward the plans and an approved certificate of appropriateness to the  
19 presiding officers of the legislature.

20 D. Upon receipt of the plans for a gubernatorial interment and memorial  
21 accompanied by the certificate of appropriateness, the presiding officers of the  
22 legislature shall meet with the chairmen of the house and senate governmental affairs  
23 committees to determine, by majority vote, if the plans for a gubernatorial interment  
24 and memorial on the grounds of the state capitol may proceed in accordance with this  
25 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 725 Original

2022 Regular Session

Echols

**Abstract:** Authorizes and provides a procedure for the interment of former governors in a specified area of the grounds in front of the state capitol.

Present law (R.S. 8:655) provides that unless a decedent has otherwise specifically indicated by notarial testament or notarized declaration who has the right to control the disposition of his remains, the prioritized list of persons specified in present law shall be used to who has the right to control the disposition of remains.

Proposed law provides that if a request for interment of a former governor of the state of La. on the grounds of the state capitol is made by a person with a right to control the disposition of remains in accordance with present law and burial space is available, the interment is authorized. Proposed law specifies the area of the front grounds that is available for such interment, specifies the size and type of tombstone, marker, or memorial, and the size of the burial plot.

Proposed law requires all plans for a gubernatorial interment and memorial to be submitted to the division of historic preservation, office of cultural development, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism for review in accordance with present law (R.S. 25:781 et seq.). Provides that if the division deems that the proposed interment and planned memorial is in keeping with the historic character of the state capitol and its grounds, the division shall forward the plans and an approved certificate of appropriateness to the presiding officers of the legislature. Requires the presiding officers to meet with chairs of the governmental affairs committees to determine by majority vote if the interment may proceed.

(Adds R.S. 49:150.3)