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3 SENATE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SB265
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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would create the Women's Tribute
9 Statue Commission to fund, commission, and place
10 monuments for Rosa Parks and Helen Keller on the
11 Capitol grounds.

12 This bill would require the Alabama
13 Historical Commission and the Division of
14 Construction Management of the Department of
15 Finance, in consultation with the Women's Tribute
16 Statue Commission, to implement placement of the
17 monuments for Rosa Parks and Helen Keller, which
18 would be located on the Capitol grounds.

19 This bill would provide that public and
20 private funds, including in-kind services, may be
21 used to commission monuments for Rosa Parks and
22 Helen Keller.
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24 A BILL
25 TO BE ENTITLED
26 AN ACT
27

1 Relating to historical monuments; to create the
2 Women's Tribute Statue Commission; to provide for the
3 membership and duties of the commission; to provide for the
4 termination of the commission; to require the Alabama
5 Historical Commission and the Division of Construction
6 Management of the Department of Finance to implement placement
7 of the statues; and to provide that public and private funds,
8 including in-kind services, may be used for the commission of
9 the monuments.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

11 Section 1. The Legislature does hereby find as
12 follows as to Rosa Parks:

13 (1) On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give
14 up her seat on a Montgomery bus; and

15 (2) This bold act led to the Montgomery bus boycott,
16 a major event in the United States' Civil Rights struggle; and

17 (3) Rosa Parks spent all of her life advocating for
18 Civil Rights for African-Americans; and

19 (4) Following the death of Rosa Parks, her body lay
20 in honor in the rotunda of the United States Capitol, making
21 her the first woman given such honor, the second
22 African-American, and the first American who was not a
23 government official; and

24 (5) A statue of Rosa Parks was placed in the
25 National Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol by special action
26 of the U.S. Congress; and

1 (6) The Legislature does hereby find that a
2 commemorative statue to honor Rosa Parks would be a worthy
3 addition to the grounds of the Alabama State Capitol, and it
4 supports the inclusion of such a statue in a place of
5 prominence on the West front of the Capitol facing Bainbridge
6 Street that will convey to future generations the importance
7 of Rosa Parks to the State of Alabama, the United States, and
8 the world.

9 Section 2. The Legislature does hereby find as
10 follows as to Helen Keller:

11 (1) Helen Keller was born in Tuscumbia and, at age
12 nineteen months, contracted an illness which left her deaf and
13 blind; and

14 (2) How Helen Keller learned to communicate is a
15 quintessential story of overcoming adversity and is
16 inspirational to many people in Alabama, the United States,
17 and the world; and

18 (3) A statue of Helen Keller is in the National
19 Statuary Hall Collection as one of two statues representing
20 Alabama since 2009, making hers one of only nine statues in
21 the Collection representing women; and

22 (4) The Legislature does hereby find that a
23 commemorative statue to honor Helen Keller would be a worthy
24 addition to the grounds of the Alabama State Capitol, and it
25 supports the inclusion of such a statue in a place where it
26 will be readily accessible to, and touchable by, disabled
27 persons.

1 Section 3. (a) (1) The Women's Tribute Statue
2 Commission is created to fund, commission, and place statues
3 of Rosa Parks and Helen Keller. The statue of Rosa Parks shall
4 be placed on the West front of the Capitol facing Bainbridge
5 Street. The statue of Helen Keller shall be placed on the
6 grounds of the Capitol in a place where it will be readily
7 accessible to, and touchable by, individuals with
8 disabilities.

9 (2) The commission may solicit input from public and
10 private organizations and entities regarding the design and
11 proposed plans for the statues.

12 (b) (1) The commission shall consist of seven members
13 to be appointed as follows:

14 a. Three members appointed by the Governor.

15 b. Two members appointed by the President Pro
16 Tempore of the Senate.

17 c. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House
18 of Representatives.

19 (2) Appointed members shall be representative of the
20 areas of the arts, disabilities, and civil rights.

21 (3) The appointing authorities shall coordinate
22 their appointments so that the diversity of gender, race, and
23 geographical areas is reflective of the makeup of this state.

24 (4) Members of the commission shall serve without
25 compensation.

26 (c) (1) The Governor shall select one of his or her
27 three appointees as chair of the commission, and the members

1 may elect a vice-chair from the membership of the commission.
2 The commission shall meet at the call of the chair or half of
3 its members, and four of the members present at a called
4 meeting shall constitute a quorum. The commission may choose
5 to adopt bylaws.

6 (2) Meetings of the commission shall be subject to
7 the Alabama Open Meetings Act, and its members shall be
8 considered public officials for purposes of Chapter 25 of
9 Title 36, Code of Alabama 1975. Members of the commission
10 shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authorities.

11 (d) Public and private funds, including in-kind
12 services, may be used to commission the monuments for Rosa
13 Parks and Helen Keller.

14 (e) The commission shall be terminated upon the
15 placement of the statues in accordance with this act.

16 Section 4. The Alabama Historical Commission and the
17 Division of Construction Management of the Department of
18 Finance shall implement the placement of the statues on the
19 grounds of the Capitol according to the recommendations and
20 findings of the Women's Tribute Statue Commission, as provided
21 in this act.

22 Section 5. This act shall become effective
23 immediately following its passage and approval by the
24 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.