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3 SUBSTITUTE FOR HB287

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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.

23  
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.