

1 HB287  
2 199375-3  
3 By Representatives Hall, Weaver, Rowe, Scott, Ellis, Wilcox,  
4 Morris, Rogers, Moore (M), Coleman, Collins, Wood (D), Shaver,  
5 Nordgren, Moore (P), Warren, Drummond, Clarke, Farley, Wingo,  
6 Estes, Jones (S), Bracy, Howard, Shiver and Simpson  
7 RFD: State Government  
8 First Read: 21-MAR-19

1  
2 ENROLLED, An Act,

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

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

13           Section 1. The Legislature does hereby find as  
14 follows as to Rosa Parks:

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

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

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

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

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

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

12           Section 2. The Legislature does hereby find as  
13 follows as to Helen Keller:

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

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

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

1           (4) The Legislature does hereby find that a  
2 commemorative statue to honor Helen Keller 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 where it  
5 will be readily accessible to, and touchable by, disabled  
6 persons.

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

15           (2) The commission may solicit input from public and  
16 private organizations and entities regarding the design and  
17 proposed plans for the statues.

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

20           a. Three members appointed by the Governor.

21           b. Two members appointed by the President Pro  
22 Tempore of the Senate.

23           c. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House  
24 of Representatives.

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

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

6           (4) Members of the commission shall serve without  
7 compensation.

8           (c) (1) The Governor shall select one of his or her  
9 three appointees as chair of the commission, and the members  
10 may elect a vice-chair from the membership of the commission.  
11 The commission shall meet at the call of the chair or half of  
12 its members, and four of the members present at a called  
13 meeting shall constitute a quorum. The commission may choose  
14 to adopt bylaws.

15           (2) Meetings of the commission shall be subject to  
16 the Alabama Open Meetings Act, and its members shall be  
17 considered public officials for purposes of Chapter 25 of  
18 Title 36, Code of Alabama 1975. Members of the commission  
19 shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authorities.

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

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

1                   Section 4. The Alabama Historical Commission and the  
2 Division of Construction Management of the Department of  
3 Finance shall implement the placement of the statues on the  
4 grounds of the Capitol according to the recommendations and  
5 findings of the Women's Tribute Statue Commission, as provided  
6 in this act.

7                   Section 5. This act shall become effective  
8 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
9 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

