

1 SB265
2 198909-1
3 By Senators Coleman-Madison, Burkette, Stutts, Marsh, Figures,
4 Beasley and Sanders-Fortier
5 RFD: Governmental Affairs
6 First Read: 09-APR-19

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8 SYNOPSIS: The general laws of the state authorize the
9 Alabama Historical Commission to provide for the
10 placement and acquisition of historical monuments
11 and statues, and allow the Division of Construction
12 Management of the Department of Finance to acquire
13 lands and plan for the improvement of buildings and
14 structures in the name of the State of Alabama.

15 This bill would require the Alabama
16 Historical Commission and the Division of
17 Construction Management of the Department of
18 Finance to commission monuments for Rosa Parks and
19 Helen Keller, which shall be located on the Capitol
20 grounds.

21 This bill would provide that public and
22 private funds, including in-kind services, may be
23 used to commission monuments for Rosa Parks and
24 Helen Keller.

25
26 A BILL
27 TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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3 Relating to the Alabama Historical commission and
4 the division of Construction Management of the Department of
5 Finance; to require the commission and division to commission
6 monuments for Rosa Parks and Helen Keller, which shall be
7 located on the Capitol grounds; and to provide that public and
8 private funds, including in-kind services, may be used to
9 commission the monuments for Rosa Parks and Helen Keller.

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) The Alabama Historical Commission and
2 the Division of Construction Management of the Department of
3 Finance shall commission monuments in dedication to, and in
4 recognition of, Rosa Parks and Helen Keller. The statue of
5 Rosa Parks shall be placed on the West front of the Capitol
6 facing Bainbridge Street. The statue of Helen Keller shall be
7 placed on the grounds of the Capitol in a place where it will
8 be readily accessible to, and touchable by, disabled persons.

9 (b) The commission and division shall solicit input
10 from the public and other interested parties to develop the
11 plan for the placement of, and proposed designs for, the
12 monuments.

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

16 Section 4. This act shall become effective
17 immediately following its passage and approval by the
18 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.