HB287

199375-3

By Representatives Hall, Weaver, Rowe, Scott, Ellis, Wilcox, Morris, Rogers, Moore (M), Coleman, Collins, Wood (D), Shaver, Nordgren, Moore (P), Warren, Drummond, Clarke, Farley, Wingo, Estes, Jones (S), Bracy, Howard, Shiver and Simpson

RFD: State Government

First Read: 21-MAR-19
ENROLLED, An Act,

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

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

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

(4) Following the death of Rosa Parks, her body lay in honor in the rotunda of the United States Capitol, making her the first woman given such honor, the second African-American, and the first American who was not a government official; and
(5) A statue of Rosa Parks was placed in the National Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol by special action of the U.S. Congress; and

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

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

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

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

(3) A statue of Helen Keller is in the National Statuary Hall Collection as one of two statues representing Alabama since 2009, making hers one of only nine statues in the Collection representing women; and
(4) The Legislature does hereby find that a commemorative statue to honor Helen Keller would be a worthy addition to the grounds of the Alabama State Capitol, and it supports the inclusion of such a statue in a place where it will be readily accessible to, and touchable by, disabled persons.

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

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

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

a. Three members appointed by the Governor.

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

c. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
(2) Appointed members shall be representative of the areas of the arts, disabilities, and civil rights.

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

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

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

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

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

(e) The commission shall be terminated upon the placement of the statues in accordance with this act.
Section 4. The Alabama Historical Commission and the Division of Construction Management of the Department of Finance shall implement the placement of the statues on the grounds of the Capitol according to the recommendations and findings of the Women's Tribute Statue Commission, as provided in this act.

Section 5. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was passed by the House 23-APR-19, as amended.

Jeff Woodard
Clerk

Senate 07-MAY-19 Passed