

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1215

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

CULTURE/REC/TOUR DEPT: Provides relative to the disposition of certain historical statues and monuments

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 25:915, relative to historical statues and monuments; to provide relative to the  
3 disposition of certain historical statues and monuments; to provide relative to the  
4 powers and duties of the office of state parks within the Department of Culture,  
5 Recreation and Tourism; to require certain historical statues and monuments to be  
6 transferred to the office of state parks; to provide for placement and display of such  
7 historical statues and monuments; to provide for definitions; to provide for the  
8 promulgation of rules; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 25:915 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §915. Disposition of certain historical statues and monuments

12 A. As used in this Section, the following terms shall have the following  
13 meanings:

14 (1) "Public entity" means the state or any political subdivision, including any  
15 agency, board, or commission thereof.

16 (2) "Historical statue or monument" means any statue, memorial, marker, or  
17 commemorative structure owned by a public entity and located on public property  
18 for the purpose of commemorating a historical person, event, or era.

19 (3) "Office of state parks" means the office of state parks within the  
20 Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

1           B.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any historical  
2           statue or monument owned by a public entity that is removed from public display on  
3           or after August 1, 2006, and that is in the possession of the public entity shall be  
4           transferred to the office of state parks.

5           (2) The transfer shall include all rights of custody and control.

6           (3) The public entity shall coordinate with the office of state parks to provide  
7           for the delivery of the historical statue or monument to the office of state parks.

8           C.(1) The office of state parks shall designate and maintain a location within  
9           the state park system for the placement of historical statues or monuments  
10          transferred pursuant to this Section.

11          (2) The office of state parks shall determine the placement and manner of  
12          display with due regard for preservation and public access.

13          (3) The office of state parks shall not place any historical statue or monument  
14          that is transferred pursuant to this Section within the parish from which the historical  
15          statue or monument was removed from public display.

16          D. The office of state parks shall provide interpretive signage or materials  
17          for each historical statue or monument that present accurate historical context,  
18          including the subject commemorated and the circumstances of its original placement  
19          and subsequent removal.

20          E. The office of state parks may promulgate rules in accordance with the  
21          Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of this Section.

22          F. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to abrogate, impair, or  
23          supersede the provisions of R.S. 44:406.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 1215 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Bayham

**Abstract:** Provides for the transfer of custody and control of certain historical statues and monuments that are removed from public display to the office of state parks within the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Proposed law provides the following definitions:

- (1) "Public entity" means the state or any political subdivision, including any agency, board, or commission thereof.
- (2) "Historical statue or monument" means any statue, memorial, marker, or commemorative structure owned by a public entity and located on public property for the purpose of commemorating a historical person, event, or era.
- (3) "Office of state parks" means the office of state parks within the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Proposed law requires any publicly-owned historical statue or monument that is removed from public display on or after August 1, 2006, and that is in the possession of a public entity to be transferred to the office of state parks, including all rights of custody and control.

Proposed law requires public entities to coordinate with the office of state parks to provide for delivery of a removed historical statue or monument to the office of state parks.

Proposed law requires the office of state parks to designate and maintain a location within the state park system for the placement of historical statues or monuments transferred pursuant to proposed law, and prohibits placement in the parish from which the statue or monument was removed.

Proposed law requires the office to determine the placement and manner of display with due regard for preservation and public access. Requires the office to provide signage or materials that provide accurate historical context, including the subject commemorated and the circumstances of its original placement and subsequent removal.

Proposed law authorizes the office of state parks to promulgate rules in accordance with present law (Administrative Procedure Act) to implement the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of proposed law shall not be construed to supersede the provisions of present law (R.S. 44:406), relative to the collection of records by the state archivist.

(Adds R.S. 25:915)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to the original bill:

1. Provide that proposed law applies to any historical statue or monument that is removed on or after August 1, 2006, and that is in the possession of the public entity.
2. Remove requirement that a public entity provides for the delivery of a historical statue or monument that is removed from public display to the office of state parks and require that a public entity coordinate with the office of state parks to provide for the delivery of a historical statue or monument that is removed from public display to the office of state parks.
3. Prohibit the office of state parks from placing a historical statue or monument in the parish from which it was removed.
4. Provide that proposed law shall not be construed to supersede present law (R.S. 44:406) relative to the collection of records by the state archivist.