
DIGEST

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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.