DIGEST

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Williams HB No. 277

Abstract: Provides for installation of a Ten Commandments monument on the grounds of the state capitol.

Proposed law requires the commissioner of administration to permit and arrange for the placement on the state capitol grounds of a suitable monument displaying the Ten Commandments. Requires the commissioner to designate the location of the monument and to oversee its installation. Permits the commissioner to delegate his responsibilities in proposed law to the office of state buildings.

Proposed law provides that design, construction, placement, and maintenance of the monument shall be without cost to the state.

Proposed law requires the commissioner to consider proposals for the monument from private entities and to select the proposal for the monument that will be installed. Requires him to consider the appropriateness of the proposed design, the demonstrated ability of the responsible entity to pay the costs associated with the monument, and any other factor. Provides that the commissioner shall make such selection by Dec. 31, 2011, unless he has not received an acceptable proposal by that date, in which case he shall select the first acceptable proposal he receives after that date.

Proposed law provides that the overall dimensions of the monument shall not exceed six feet in height by four feet wide by four feet deep and that the text on the monument shall be the same as that used on the monument at issue in *Van Orden v. Perry*, which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled constitutional.

Present law provides relative to public displays regarding the religious history of American and La. law. Provides that public displays of the Mayflower Compact, the Ten Commandments, the Declaration of Independence, and Articles I through IV of the Northwest Ordinances shall be accompanied by a document entitled "Context for Acknowledging America's Religious History". Specifies the text to be included in this document.

Proposed law requires that the Ten Commandments monument include a plaque with the text of the "Context for Acknowledging America's Religious History".

(Adds R.S. 49:150.1(H))