

By: Representatives Hobgood-Wilkes, Arnold, Boyd (19th), Boyd (37th), Crawford, Currie, Felsher, Ford (54th), Ford (73rd), Grady, Hale, Hurst, Mansell, Mattox, McLean, McMillan, Morgan, Pigott, Sanford, Tubb, Varner, Waldo, Owen

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1472

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 55-15-81, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT A VIOLATION RELATING TO THE RELOCATION, REMOVAL,
3 DISTURBING, ALTERING, RENAMING OR REDEDICATING OF A HISTORICAL
4 MONUMENT BY A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY IS PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF
5 \$10,000.00 PER MONTH ON SUCH COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY UNTIL THE
6 VIOLATION IS FULLY CORRECTED; TO PROVIDE THAT MONIES COLLECTED
7 FROM SUCH FINES SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT
8 OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY; TO PROVIDE THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP
9 OF INDIVIDUALS THAT DISTURBS, ALTERS, OR CAUSES ANY DAMAGE TO ANY
10 STATUE, MONUMENT, MEMORIAL OR NAMEPLATE AS PROVIDED IN THIS
11 SECTION IS GUILTY OF MALICIOUS MISCHIEF AND SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE
12 FOR ALL COSTS TO REPAIR AND RESTORE SUCH DAMAGED PROPERTY; AND FOR
13 RELATED PURPOSES.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

15 **SECTION 1.** Section 55-15-81, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
16 amended as follows:

17 55-15-81. (1) None of the following items, structures or
18 areas may be relocated, removed, disturbed, altered, renamed or
19 rededicated: any Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican-American
20 War, War Between the States, Spanish-American War, World War I,
21 World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, War in
22 Iraq * * *, Native American * * * War, or any other military
23 conflict, as well as any Native American, Civil Rights Movement,



24 firefighters, first responders, or law enforcement's statues,
25 monuments, memorials or nameplates (plaques), which have been
26 erected on public property of the state or any of its political
27 subdivisions, such as local, municipal or county owned public
28 areas, and any statues, monuments, memorials, nameplates
29 (plaques), schools, streets, bridges, buildings, parks preserves,
30 reserves or other public items, structure or areas of the state or
31 any of its political subdivisions, such as, local, municipal or
32 county owned public areas, which has been dedicated in memory of,
33 or named for, any historical military figure, historical military
34 event, military organization or military unit, as well as any
35 historical nonmilitary figure, historical nonmilitary event, or
36 historical organization or historical group of civic-minded
37 people.

38 (2) No person may prevent the public body responsible for
39 maintaining any of the items, structures or areas described above
40 from taking proper measures and exercising proper means for the
41 protection, preservation, care, repair or restoration of those
42 items, structures or areas. The governing body may move the
43 memorial to a more suitable location if it is determined that the
44 location is more appropriate to displaying the monument.

45 (3) * * * In the event that any of these items are
46 endangered or effected by the Mississippi Transportation
47 Commission, or its equivalent, and its need to perform
48 construction, maintenance or operation of public transportation



49 facilities, the State of Mississippi shall arrange for the
50 relocation of effected items or structures to a place of equal
51 prominence and accept all related costs and liability.

52 (4) Any violation of this section by a county or
53 municipality is punishable by a fine in the amount of Ten Thousand
54 Dollars (\$10,000.00) per month on such county or municipality
55 until the violation is fully corrected. Monies collected from
56 such fines shall be distributed to the Mississippi Department of
57 Archives and History.

58 (5) Any individual or group of individuals that disturbs,
59 alters, or causes any damage to any statue, monument, memorial or
60 nameplate (plaque) as provided in this section is guilty of
61 malicious mischief under Section 97-17-67.

62 Additionally, any individual or group of individuals found
63 guilty of damaging any statue, monument, memorial, or nameplate
64 (plaque) as provided in this section shall be responsible for all
65 costs to repair and restore such damaged property.

66 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
67 and after July 1, 2024.

