

By: Representative Hobgood-Wilkes

To: State Affairs

HOUSE BILL NO. 1487

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 55-15-81, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO DELETE THE AUTHORITY OF A GOVERNING BODY TO MOVE A HISTORICAL
3 MONUMENT OR MEMORIAL TO A DIFFERENT LOCATION; TO GRANT STANDING TO
4 A PERSON WHO FEELS THAT A VIOLATION OF THE PROHIBITION AGAINST
5 MOVING HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS HAS OCCURRED TO BRING A
6 LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE ALLEGED OFFENDER IN THE COUNTY IN WHICH
7 THE VIOLATION OCCURRED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

11 55-15-81. (1) None of the following items, structures or
12 areas may be relocated, removed, disturbed, altered, moved,
13 renamed or rededicated: any Revolutionary War, War of 1812,
14 Mexican-American War, War Between the States, Spanish-American
15 War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Civil
16 Rights struggle, Persian Gulf War, War in Iraq, War in Afghanistan
17 or Native American War's statues, monuments, memorials or
18 nameplates (plaques), which have been erected on public property
19 of the state or any of its political subdivisions, such as local,
20 municipal or county owned public areas, and any statues,



21 monuments, memorials, nameplates (plaques), schools, streets,
22 bridges, buildings, parks preserves, reserves or other public
23 items, structure or areas of the state or any of its political
24 subdivisions, such as, local, municipal or county owned public
25 areas, which has been dedicated in memory of, or named for, any
26 historical military figure, historical military event, military
27 organization or military unit.

28 (2) No person may prevent the public body responsible for
29 maintaining any of the items, structures or areas described above
30 from taking proper measures and exercising proper means for the
31 protection, preservation, care, repair or restoration of those
32 items, structures or areas. * * *

33 (3) Any person who feels that this statute has been violated
34 by any party or any government body may bring a legal action to
35 enforce this section, or any part of it, and has legal standing
36 and the right to initiate such an action in the chancery or
37 circuit court of the county in which the violation is alleged to
38 have occurred.

39 (4) This section shall not apply to items, structures or
40 areas located on property owned or acquired by the Mississippi
41 Transportation Commission which may interfere with the
42 construction, maintenance or operation of public transportation
43 facilities.



44 (5) The protections of this section apply and are in force
45 in regard to all protected items and structures in place as of the
46 effective date of this act.

47 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
48 and after its passage.

