

By: Senator(s) Hill

To: Public Property; Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2295

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 55-15-81, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO CLARIFY THE PROVISION WHICH PROHIBITS THE ALTERATION OR REMOVAL
3 OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS; TO AUTHORIZE A CIVIL CLAIM
4 TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION; TO PROVIDE A VENUE FOR
5 THE CIVIL CLAIM; TO PROVIDE ATTORNEY'S FEES TO A PREVAILING PARTY
6 WHO ESTABLISHES A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION; AND FOR RELATED
7 PURPOSES.

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

10 55-15-81. (1) None of the following items, structures or
11 areas may be relocated, removed, disturbed, altered, renamed or
12 rededicated: any Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican-American
13 War, War Between the States, Spanish-American War, World War I,
14 World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Civil Rights era, Persian
15 Gulf War, War in Iraq, War in Afghanistan, or Native American
16 War's statues, monuments, memorials or nameplates (plaques), which
17 have been erected on public property of the state or any of its
18 political subdivisions, such as local, municipal or county owned
19 public areas, and any statues, monuments, memorials, nameplates
20 (plaques), schools, streets, bridges, buildings, parks preserves,



21 reserves or other public items, structure or areas of the state or
22 any of its political subdivisions, such as, local, municipal or
23 county owned public areas, which has been dedicated in memory of,
24 or named for, any historical military figure, historical military
25 event, military organization or military unit.

26 (2) No person may prevent the public body responsible for
27 maintaining any of the items, structures or areas described * * *
28 in subsection (1) of this section from taking proper measures and
29 exercising proper means for the protection, preservation, care,
30 repair or restoration of those items, structures or areas. * * *

31 (3) (a) Any person feeling this statute has been violated
32 may bring an action, and have legal standing to do so, to enforce
33 this law in the chancery court of the judicial district where the
34 violation is alleged to have taken place.

35 (b) In any action or proceeding to enforce a provision
36 of this section, a prevailing party who establishes a violation of
37 this section shall recover reasonable attorney's fees.

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

43 (5) The protections of this statute shall apply and be in
44 force in regard to all protected items, structures or areas in
45 place as of the date of passage of this law.



46 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
47 and after July 1, 2025.

