

By: Senator(s) Simmons (12th)

To: Rules

SENATE BILL NO. 2376

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE NATIONAL STATUARY HALL SELECTION
2 COMMISSION TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF
3 TWO NEW HISTORIC FIGURES TO REPRESENT MISSISSIPPI IN THE NATIONAL
4 STATUARY HALL COLLECTION AT THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL; TO PROVIDE
5 THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS SHALL BE FIGURES WHO BRING HONOR TO ALL
6 MISSISSIPPIANS AND REFLECT THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE STATE AS A
7 WHOLE; TO PRESCRIBE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION AND TO
8 PROVIDE FOR ITS ORGANIZATION AND MEETINGS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
9 COMMISSION SHALL MAKE WRITTEN RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND
10 THE LEGISLATURE NOT LATER THAN NOVEMBER 30, 2025; AND FOR RELATED
11 PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature finds and declares that:

14 (a) In 1864, the United States Congress established the
15 National Statuary Hall Collection in the Old Hall of the House of
16 Representatives in the United States Capitol and authorized each
17 state to contribute to the hall collection two (2) statues that
18 represent important historic figures of each state;

19 (b) Mississippi currently has on display in the
20 National Statuary Hall Collection statues of Jefferson Davis and
21 James Zachariah George given by the State of Mississippi in 1931;



22 (c) In 2000, the United States Congress enacted
23 legislation authorizing states to request that the Joint Committee
24 on the Library of Congress approve the replacement of statues that
25 states had provided for display in the hall collection;

26 (d) The State of Mississippi has a rich heritage in
27 art, literature, music, and history; and

28 (e) In the spirit of unity and for the sake of
29 displaying to our nation historic figures who bring honor to all
30 Mississippians, taking into account the demographics of the state
31 as a whole, the Legislature seeks to reopen consideration of the
32 figures whose statues are to represent the State of Mississippi in
33 the National Statuary Hall Collection.

34 **SECTION 2.** (1) The National Statuary Hall Selection
35 Commission is created. The commission shall consist of nine (9)
36 members, to be appointed as follows:

37 (a) Three (3) members appointed by the Lieutenant
38 Governor;

39 (b) Three (3) members appointed by the Speaker of the
40 House; and

41 (c) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor, to
42 include:

43 (i) A representative from the Mississippi Economic
44 Council;

45 (ii) A representative from the Mississippi Arts
46 Commission; and



(iii) A representative from the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

All appointments to the commission shall be made not later than July 15, 2025. The chair of the commission shall be chosen by majority vote of the members of the commission. Upon the joint call of the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker, the commission shall meet as soon as practicable after the appointments have been made and shall organize for business. A majority vote of the members of the commission shall be required for the adoption of any reports and recommendations. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History shall provide meeting space and clerical support for the operation of the commission.

(2) The commission shall have the following functions and duties:

(a) To hold regular public meetings when and where it sees fit;

(b) To receive written public comments in a manner and under the terms and conditions as it sees fit;

(c) To collect, examine and consider all information that it determines may be helpful in making recommendations for two (2) new historic figures to represent Mississippi in the National Statuary Hall Collection;

(d) To make any inquiries and conduct any business that may assist the commission in developing its recommendations, including consultation with experts, representatives of



72 organizations and associations, and others with relevant knowledge
73 or expertise;

74 (e) To keep minutes of its meetings and make those
75 minutes available to the public; and

76 (f) To make written recommendations for the selection
77 of two (2) new historic figures for the National Statuary Hall
78 Collection, who bring honor to all Mississippians and reflect the
79 demographics of the state as a whole, which recommendations shall
80 be presented to the Governor and the Legislature not later than
81 November 30, 2025.

82 (3) Members of the commission shall receive no compensation
83 for their service on the commission, but may receive reimbursement
84 for mileage and actual expenses as provided in Section 25-3-41, to
85 the extent that funds are available for that purpose.

86 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
87 and after its passage.

