



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 550

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6040

House of Representatives, April 7, 2025

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BLUMENTHAL of the 147th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE COMMISSION ON CAPITOL PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION TO DEVELOP A PROCESS FOR ADDING STATUES TO THE STATE CAPITOL AND ESTABLISHING THE STATE HISTORICAL COMMISSION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 4b-60 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) There shall be a State Commission on Capitol Preservation and
4 Restoration to consist of twelve members to be appointed as follows:
5 Two members shall be appointed by the Governor, two by the speaker
6 of the House of Representatives, two by the president pro tempore of
7 the Senate, one by the House minority leader, one by the Senate
8 minority leader, two members of the Joint Committee on Legislative
9 Management, one appointed by each of the chairmen of said committee,
10 and one member of the Historic Preservation Council appointed by its
11 chairperson. The Commissioner of Administrative Services, or the

12 commissioner's designee, shall be an ex-officio member of the
13 commission and shall attend its meetings. Vacancies on the commission
14 shall be filled by the original appointing authority for the unexpired
15 portion of the term. The members shall serve without compensation for
16 their services but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary
17 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The commission
18 shall meet at least quarterly, and more often on the call of the chairman
19 or on the written request of a majority of the members. The commission
20 may designate subcommittees to carry out its functions. Any member
21 who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or fails to attend fifty per
22 cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to
23 have resigned.

24 (b) The commission: (1) Shall undertake a continuing review and
25 study of the State Capitol building and grounds, with a view to
26 developing a master plan for the preservation and restoration of the
27 Capitol, including necessary structural changes, consistent with the
28 original historical character of the building, with due regard being given
29 to enhancing the interior and exterior beauty of the building, making
30 better use of existing space and reducing public safety hazards; (2) shall
31 develop a process for identifying and commissioning additional statues
32 to be added to the exterior of the State Capitol building that reflect the
33 diversity, character and accomplishments of the state; (3) may consult
34 with state, federal or private agencies with respect [thereto] to the duties
35 set forth in this subsection, and disseminate information on its activities;
36 and [(3)] (4) shall report on its activities to the Joint Committee on
37 Legislative Management annually or as often as the committee shall
38 direct. The Department of Administrative Services shall provide
39 professional staff assistance to the commission when available. If such
40 assistance cannot be provided within a reasonable time, the commission
41 may, with the approval of the Joint Committee on Legislative
42 Management, retain technical advisors to assist in reviewing project
43 plans and work.

44 (c) The commission is authorized to accept gifts, donations and grants
45 from the federal government or other public or private sources for the

46 purpose of such preservation and restoration.

47 (d) The Joint Committee on Legislative Management may undertake
48 capital expenditure programs for which capital funds are authorized, in
49 connection with such preservation and restoration, including, but not
50 limited to, implementing the process developed pursuant to subdivision
51 (2) of subsection (b) of this section to commission additional statues.
52 Such programs shall be carried out by the committee, pursuant to plans
53 and specifications approved by the commission and in accordance with
54 the bidding procedures in part II of chapter 60. The commission shall
55 adopt regulations establishing basic artistic standards in keeping with
56 the original historical character of the Capitol to assist the committee in
57 the preparation of plans and specifications.

58 (e) The commission shall be an independent body within the
59 Legislative Department for administrative purposes only.

60 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 1, 2026, the State
61 Commission on Capitol Preservation and Restoration shall (1) develop
62 a plan for the installation of exterior placards or other signage around
63 the exterior of the State Capitol building to provide a written historical
64 explanation of the various statues and other markers on the exterior of
65 the State Capitol building for the public, and (2) submit such plan to the
66 Joint Committee on Legislative Management.

67 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established a State
68 Historical Commission, which shall be an independent body within the
69 Legislative Department for administrative purposes only. The
70 commission shall examine and make recommendations to the
71 legislative, executive and judicial branches on questions of
72 memorialization and commemoration related to Connecticut and
73 United States history.

74 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members: (1) One
75 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; (2) one
76 appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives; (3)
77 one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate; (4) one

78 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; (5) one appointed by the
79 minority leader of the House of Representatives; (6) one appointed by
80 the minority leader of the Senate; (7) two appointed by the Governor;
81 (8) two appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee
82 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
83 government administration, with one member appointed by each
84 chairperson; (9) two appointed by the ranking members of the joint
85 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
86 matters relating to government administration, with one member
87 appointed by each ranking member; (10) the Chief Court Administrator,
88 or a designee; and (11) the State Historian. Appointed members shall be
89 scholars in the areas of history, literature, law or philosophy with an
90 affiliation with an accredited institution of higher education located in
91 this state. Any member of the commission appointed under
92 subdivisions (1) to (9), inclusive, of this subsection may be a member of
93 the General Assembly.

94 (c) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not later
95 than September 1, 2025. Appointed members of the commission shall
96 serve for three-year terms which shall commence on the date of
97 appointment. Members shall continue to serve until their successors are
98 appointed.

99 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
100 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the commission
101 from among the members of the commission. Such chairperson shall
102 schedule the first meeting of the commission, which shall be held not
103 later than September 15, 2025.

104 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
105 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government
106 administration shall serve as administrative staff of the commission.

107 (f) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any
108 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the
109 balance of the unexpired term.

110 (g) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the
111 transaction of any business.

112 (h) The members of the commission shall serve without
113 compensation, but shall, within the limits of available funds, be
114 reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of
115 their duties.

116 (i) The commission shall have the following powers and duties: To
117 (1) issue reports and recommendations to all three branches of
118 government concerning historical questions of memorialization and
119 commemoration related to Connecticut and United States history, either
120 upon the request of any executive, legislative or judicial department,
121 board, commission or other agency of the state or upon its own
122 initiative; (2) obtain from any executive, legislative or judicial
123 department, board, commission or other agency of the state such
124 assistance and data as necessary and available to carry out the purposes
125 of this section; (3) accept any gift, donation or bequest for the purpose
126 of performing the duties described in this section; and (4) perform such
127 other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the duties
128 described in this section.

129 (j) Not later than February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
130 commission shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
131 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor and the joint
132 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
133 matters relating to government administration. Such report shall
134 include, but need not be limited to, a summary of the activities of the
135 commission during the prior year and any policy changes and
136 amendments to the general statutes necessary to implement the
137 recommendations of the commission.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2025	4b-60
Sec. 2	from passage	New section

Sec. 3	July 1, 2025	New section
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 3(b), a reference to Subdivs. (1) to (9) was added for consistency.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill creates a State Historical Commission and allows members to be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties resulting in a potential minimal cost to the Office of Legislative Management to the extent reimbursements are requested.

The bill also adds to the duties of the State Commission on Capitol Preservation resulting in no fiscal impact to the state because the Commission has the expertise to meet the requirements of the bill.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6040*****AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE COMMISSION ON CAPITOL PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION TO DEVELOP A PROCESS FOR ADDING STATUES TO THE STATE CAPITOL AND ESTABLISHING THE STATE HISTORICAL COMMISSION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands the State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission's duties by requiring it to develop a process for identifying and commissioning additional statues for the State Capitol building exterior to reflect the state's diversity, character, and accomplishments. It allows the Legislative Management Committee to use capital funds to implement this process.

The bill also requires the commission, by February 1, 2026, to (1) develop a plan for installing placards or other signs around the State Capitol Building's exterior to give the public a written historical explanation of the various statues and other markers on the building exterior and (2) submit the plan to the Legislative Management Committee.

Additionally, the bill creates a 14-member State Historical Commission to examine and make recommendations to the legislative, executive, and judicial branches on questions of memorialization and commemoration related to Connecticut and U.S. history. The commission's members are (1) certain public officers or (2) scholars in certain fields affiliated with an in-state higher education institution.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025, except that the provision requiring a plan for exterior signage takes effect upon passage.

IDENTIFYING AND COMMISSIONING ADDITIONAL STATUES

Existing law requires the State Capitol Preservation and Restoration

Commission to continually review and study the State Capitol building and grounds with a view to developing a master plan for preserving and restoring it consistent with the building's original historical character.

The bill requires the commission to develop a process for identifying and commissioning additional statues to for the State Capitol building exterior to reflect the state's diversity, character, and accomplishments. It allows the commission to consult with state, federal, or private agencies in developing the process.

The bill allows the Legislative Management Committee to undertake capital expenditure programs to implement this process. As under existing law, the committee may do so using capital funds and following (1) plans and specifications approved by the commission and (2) state bidding laws.

STATE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Membership

The bill establishes the commission as an independent body within the legislative branch for administrative purposes only. Under the bill, the commission's membership consists of the chief court administrator, or their designee, the state historian, and 12 appointed members as follows: (1) two by the governor and (2) one each by the six legislative leaders and the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee chairpersons and ranking members. Appointed members must be scholars in history, law, literature, or philosophy and affiliated with an in-state higher education institution. They may be legislators.

The bill requires that (1) initial appointments be made by September 1, 2025, and (2) the first meeting be held by September 15, 2025. Members serve three-year terms from their appointment date and continue to serve until the appointment of their successors. The appointing authority must fill any vacancy, and a vacancy occurring during a term must be filled for the rest of the unexpired term. The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must select the

chairperson, who must schedule the first meeting. A majority of the membership constitutes a quorum to transact business.

The bill requires that commission members serve without compensation but allows reimbursement for necessary expenses within available funds.

Powers and Duties

The bill authorizes the commission to:

1. issue reports and recommendations to all three branches of government on historical questions of memorialization and commemoration related to Connecticut and U.S. history, on its own initiative or upon request of an agency, department, board, or commission in any of the three branches;
2. obtain assistance and data from these government entities as necessary and available to carry out the commission's purposes;
3. accept any gift, donation, or bequest to perform its duties; and
4. perform other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out its duties.

It requires the commission, starting by February 1, 2026, to report annually to the governor and GAE Committee. The report must include a summary of the commission's activities during the previous year and any policy or legislative changes needed to implement its recommendations. Finally, the bill requires the GAE Committee staff to serve as the commission's administrative staff.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/19/2025)