



# House of Representatives

**File No. 939**

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

**(Reprint of File No. 550)**

Substitute House Bill No. 6040  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 21, 2025

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

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 Section 4b-60 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 implement the process for identifying and commissioning additional  
32 statues to be added to the exterior of the State Capitol building  
33 developed by the State Historical Commission pursuant to section 3 of  
34 this act; (3) may consult with state, federal or private agencies with  
35 respect [thereto] to the duties set forth in this subsection, and  
36 disseminate information on its activities; and [(3)] (4) shall report on its  
37 activities to the Joint Committee on Legislative Management annually  
38 or as often as the committee shall direct. The Department of  
39 Administrative Services shall provide professional staff assistance to the  
40 commission when available. If such assistance cannot be provided  
41 within a reasonable time, the commission may, with the approval of the  
42 Joint Committee on Legislative Management, retain technical advisors  
43 to assist in reviewing project 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, to commission additional statues using the process  
51 implemented by the State Commission on Capitol Preservation and  
52 Restoration under subsection (c) of this section. Such programs shall be  
53 carried out by the committee, pursuant to plans and specifications  
54 approved by the commission and in accordance with the bidding  
55 procedures in part II of chapter 60. The commission shall adopt  
56 regulations establishing basic artistic standards in keeping with the  
57 original historical character of the Capitol to assist the committee in the  
58 preparation of plans and specifications.

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

61 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Not later than February 1, 2026, the State  
62 Historical Commission shall (1) develop a plan for the installation of  
63 exterior placards or other signage around the exterior of the State  
64 Capitol building to provide a written historical explanation of the  
65 various statues and other markers on the exterior of the State Capitol  
66 building for the public, and (2) submit such plan to the State  
67 Commission on Capitol Preservation and Restoration and the Joint  
68 Committee on Legislative Management. The State Commission on  
69 Capitol Preservation and Restoration shall make recommendations  
70 concerning implementation of such plan to the Joint Committee on  
71 Legislative Management.

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

79 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members: (1) One  
80 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who is a  
81 representative of CT Humanities; (2) one appointed by the majority  
82 leader of the House of Representatives, who is a representative of the  
83 Connecticut Library Association; (3) one appointed by the president pro  
84 tempore of the Senate, who is a representative of the Connecticut  
85 Democracy Center; (4) one appointed by the majority leader of the  
86 Senate, who is a representative of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal  
87 Nation; (5) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
88 Representatives, who is a representative of the Connecticut Museum of  
89 Culture and History; (6) one appointed by the minority leader of the  
90 Senate, who is a representative of the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of  
91 Connecticut; (7) two appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a  
92 representative of the Freeman Center for History and Community, Inc.;  
93 (8) the Chief Court Administrator, or a designee; (9) the State Historian;  
94 (10) the State Librarian; and (11) the State Historic Preservation Officer.  
95 Any member of the commission appointed under subdivisions (1) to (6),  
96 inclusive, of this subsection may be a member of the General Assembly.

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

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

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

110 (f) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any

111 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the  
112 balance of the unexpired term.

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

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

119 (i) The commission shall have the following powers and duties: To  
120 (1) issue reports and recommendations to all three branches of  
121 government concerning historical questions of memorialization and  
122 commemoration related to Connecticut and United States history, either  
123 upon the request of any executive, legislative or judicial department,  
124 board, commission or other agency of the state or upon its own  
125 initiative, including, but not limited to, developing the process required  
126 under subsection (j) of this section; (2) obtain from any executive,  
127 legislative or judicial department, board, commission or other agency of  
128 the state such assistance and data as necessary and available to carry out  
129 the purposes of this section; (3) accept any gift, donation or bequest for  
130 the purpose of performing the duties described in this section; and (4)  
131 perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry  
132 out the duties described in this section.

133 (j) Not later than January 1, 2026, the commission shall (1) develop a  
134 process for identifying and commissioning additional statues to be  
135 added to the exterior of the State Capitol building that reflect the  
136 diversity, character and accomplishments of the state, and (2) submit a  
137 report detailing such process to the State Commission on Capitol  
138 Preservation and Restoration for implementation. Thereafter, the  
139 commission shall update such process as often as it deems necessary,  
140 and submit any revisions to the process to the State Commission on  
141 Capitol Preservation and Restoration.

142 (k) Not later than February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the

143 commission shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of  
144 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor and the joint  
145 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
146 matters relating to government administration. Such report shall  
147 include, but need not be limited to, a summary of the activities of the  
148 commission during the prior year and any policy changes and  
149 amendments to the general statutes necessary to implement the  
150 recommendations of the commission.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	4b-60
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

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Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

*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.*

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## **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.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact resulting in the impact described above.

### **The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above will continue into the future subject to the number of reimbursements requested and inflation.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6040 (as amended by House "A")\******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 creates a 12-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. It also requires the commission to develop a process for identifying and commissioning additional statues for the State Capitol building's exterior.

Correspondingly, the bill requires the State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission to implement the State Historical Commission's process. It also allows the Legislative Management Committee to commission additional statues through this process, using capital funds and following state bidding laws.

The bill also requires the State Historical Commission, by February 1, 2026, to (1) develop a plan to install 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 State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission and Legislative Management Committee. The Preservation and Restoration Commission must make recommendations to the committee on implementing the plan.

\*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill (File 550) and (1) requires the State Historical Commission to develop the plan to



commission additional statues for the State Capitol and the State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission to implement it; (2) requires the historical commission, instead of the preservation and restoration commission, to develop the placard plan; and (3) modifies the State Historical Commission's membership.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

## STATE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

### *Membership*

The bill creates the commission as an independent body within the legislative branch for administrative purposes only. Its membership consists of the following state officials: the chief court administrator or her designee, state historian, state librarian, and state preservation officer. It also includes eight appointed members, one each representing the organizations listed in the table below.

**Table: State Historical Commission Appointed Members**

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Organization Appointee Must Represent</i>
House speaker	CT Humanities
House majority leader	CT Library Association
Senate president pro tempore	CT Democracy Center
Senate majority leader	Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
House minority leader	CT Museum of Culture and History
Senate minority leader	Mohegan Tribe of Indians of CT
Governor (two appointments)	(1) Freeman Center for History and Community, Inc. and (2) undesignated

Appointing authorities must make their initial appointments by September 1, 2025, and fill any vacancy. Vacancies occurring during a term must be filled for the rest of the unexpired term. Appointed members (excluding gubernatorial appointees) may be legislators.

Members serve three-year terms starting on their appointment date and continue to serve until their successors are appointed. They serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses, within available funds.

***Leadership and Meetings***

Under the bill, the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must select the chairperson from among the commission members. The chairperson must schedule and hold the first meeting by September 15, 2025. A majority of commission members constitutes a quorum to conduct business.

The Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee's administrative staff serve in this capacity for the commission.

***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 any state agency, department, board, or commission;
2. develop a process for identifying and commissioning additional statues for the State Capitol building's exterior;
3. obtain available assistance and data from these government entities needed to carry out the commission's purposes;
4. accept gifts, donations, or bequests to perform its duties; and
5. perform other appropriate and necessary acts to carry out its duties.

***Reports***

By January 1, 2026, the commission must develop the process for identifying and commissioning additional statues and submit a report detailing the process to the State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission. The State Historical Commission must update the process when necessary and submit these revisions to the State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission.

The bill also requires the State Historical Commission, starting by February 1, 2026, to report annually to the governor and the GAE Committee.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea    13      Nay    6      (03/19/2025)