



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 6040

LCO No. 5695



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**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 Section 4b-60 of the general statutes is repealed and the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; and (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. Members shall be scholars in the
88 areas of history, literature, law or philosophy with an affiliation with an
89 accredited institution of higher education located in this state. Any
90 member of the commission appointed under this subsection may be a
91 member of the General Assembly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

127 (j) Not later than February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
 128 commission shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
 129 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor and the joint
 130 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 131 matters relating to government administration. Such report shall
 132 include, but need not be limited to, a summary of the activities of the
 133 commission during the prior year and any policy changes and
 134 amendments to the general statutes necessary to implement the
 135 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>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To develop a process for identifying and commissioning additional statues for the exterior of the State Capitol that reflect the diversity of the state, require the development of a plan for exterior placards and other signage around the State Capitol building and to establish the State Historical Commission.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. ROJAS, 9th Dist.

H.B. 6040