

## The Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission and PA 25-174

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### Issue

Do the provisions of [PA 25-174](#), §§ 206-208, on identifying and commissioning additional statues for the State Capitol building conflict with the Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission's statutory purpose?

The Office of Legislative Research is not authorized to issue legal opinions, and this report should not be considered one.

### The Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission and PA 25-174

By law, the [Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission](#) (CPRC) must review and study the State Capitol building and grounds on an ongoing basis, with a view to developing a master plan for preserving and restoring it. This includes necessary structural changes, consistent with the building's original historical character, and with due regard to enhancing the building's interior and exterior beauty, making better use of existing space, and reducing public safety hazards. In connection with this preservation and restoration, the legislature's Joint Committee on Legislative Management (JCLM) may undertake capital expenditure programs for which capital funds are authorized. JCLM must carry out these programs according to plans and specifications approved by CPRC and according to state bidding laws. CPRC must also adopt regulations establishing basic artistic standards in keeping with the Capitol's original historical character to help JCLM in preparing the plans and specifications ([CGS § 4b-60](#)).

[PA 25-174](#), §§ 206-208, creates a 12-member [State Historical Commission](#) within the Legislative Department (for administrative purposes only) and requires it, among other duties, to develop a process for identifying and commissioning additional statues for the State Capitol building's exterior that reflect the state's diversity, character, and accomplishments. Under the act, the historical commission must report the new process to CPRC by January 1, 2026, and CPRC must subsequently implement it. The act also specifically allows JCLM to commission additional statues through this process, using authorized capital funds and following state bidding laws.

It does not appear that the provisions of PA 25-174, §§ 206-208, explicitly conflict with CPRC's underlying statutory purpose. To the extent that CPRC's ongoing review for preserving and restoring the Capital Building includes a process for identifying and commissioning additional statues for the building, it could potentially conflict with the process that the new State Historical Commission must develop. However, it does not appear that CPRC has developed such a process. PA 25-174, §§ 206-208, makes the new State Historical Commission responsible for developing a process for identifying and commissioning additional statues, with CPRC responsible for subsequently implementing it, and JCLM then using it to commission additional statues.

To date, it does not appear that the new State Historical Commission has its full complement of appointees or held its first meeting.

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