



# Procedure and Guidelines for Replacement of Statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection

United States Capitol

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THE CREATION OF the National Statuary Hall Collection was authorized by the United States Congress in 1864 to allow each State to provide two statues of notable citizens for display in the United States Capitol. The Joint Committee on the Library of Congress has oversight of the collection, and under the committee's direction the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) is responsible for the reception, placement, and care of the statues.

In accordance with legislation enacted in 2000, "Any State may request the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress to approve the replacement of a statue the State has provided for display in Statuary Hall" under two conditions:

(A) the request has been approved by a resolution adopted by the legislature of the State and the request has been approved by the Governor of the State, and

(B) the statue to be replaced has been displayed in the Capitol of the United States for at least 10 years as of the time the request is made, except that the Joint Committee may waive this requirement for cause at the request of a State.

## Steps

1. The State legislature enacts a resolution that identifies the statue to be replaced, names the individual to be newly commemorated and cites his or her qualifications, selects a committee or commission to represent the State in selecting the sculptor(s), and directs the method of obtaining the necessary funds to carry the resolution into effect. Expenditures for which the State is responsible include the cost of paying the sculptor; carving or casting the statue; creating a pedestal and any desired inscription; transporting the statue and pedestal to the United States Capitol; removing and transporting the replaced statue; temporarily erecting the new statue in the Rotunda of the Capitol for the unveiling ceremony; expenses related to the unveiling ceremony; and any other expenses that the State commission may find it necessary to incur.
2. A letter from a duly authorized state official with a copy of the legislation approved by the governor is then sent to the Architect of the Capitol, who will inform the Joint Committee on the Library that the State wishes to replace a given statue.
3. The Joint Committee on the Library will approve or deny the request.
4. If the request is approved by the Joint Committee on the Library, the Architect of the Capitol will formalize an agreement with the State to guide the process. The agreement consists of the state's commitment to follow the guidelines for the design and fabrication of statues (see below) and to take responsibility for any cost related to the design, construction, transportation, and placement of the new statue; the removal and transportation of the statue being replaced; and any unveiling ceremony. The state will also agree to submit photographs of the maquette, the model, and the completed statue to the Architect of the Capitol, who will make a recommendation to the Joint Committee on the Library regarding final approval.
5. The holding of an unveiling ceremony is optional. Permission to use the Rotunda must be granted by concurrent resolution of the Congress, and legislation by the Congress is required to authorize printing of the proceedings at Government expense. The State commission may contact the State delegation in Congress for assistance and for introduction of the required legislation. Any legislation relating to use of the Rotunda for unveiling ceremonies or to the printing of proceedings is referred to and acted on by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and the Committee on House Administration prior to action by the Senate and House of Representatives.

Although no law requires the Congress to accept statues by formal resolution, it is recommended that

acceptance of the statue by the Congress be included in the legislation introduced for the use of the Rotunda for the unveiling ceremony.

6. The program for the ceremony should be arranged with the Speaker of the House and should ensure that congressional participation is bi-partisan and bicameral and that the program concludes in a reasonable time. Unveiling ceremonies are usually held in the Capitol Rotunda; the Architect of the Capitol provides support for these events.
7. The State must then coordinate with the Curator for the Architect of the Capitol and the Superintendent of the Capitol Building all aspects related to the statue itself, its placement, and the removal of the replaced statue.

The replaced statue must be removed before the new statue is brought into the Capitol. Before the replaced statue may be removed, a document transferring ownership of that statue from the federal government to the State will be signed by the Architect of the Capitol and the designated State official.

8. A new statue is usually placed on view in the Rotunda for up to six months and then moved to a permanent location approved by the Joint Committee on the Library. The National Statuary Hall collection is located in several areas of the Capitol: National Statuary Hall (the Old Hall of the House); the Rotunda; the first- and second-floor House and Senate corridors; the Hall of Columns; and the Crypt.

The Architect will make recommendations for placement of the new statue with the least possible disruption to previously placed statues while maintaining a harmonious arrangement. To assist in developing this recommendation, the agency's structural engineer will determine whether the floor in any proposed location can safely support the weight of the statue. If the replacement statue is suitable in weight and dimensions, it will normally take the place of the older statue. If not, the Architect will, upon the approval of the Joint Committee on the Library and with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as requested, relocate statues within the Capitol.

9. Once the permanent placement of the statue has been approved by the Joint Committee on the Li-

brary, the Architect of the Capitol Curator will coordinate with the State and the Superintendent of the Capitol Building the details of the process.

### **Guidelines for Replacement Statues**

The guidelines below are provided for reference only; they may be modified in particular cases by the Joint Committee on the Library. Images of the statues now in the collection are available at the Architect of the Capitol Web site ([www.aoc.gov](http://www.aoc.gov)).

**Subject.** The subject of the statue must be a deceased person who was a citizen of the United States and is illustrious for historic renown or for distinguished civic or military service. Statues may represent only one individual (ruling adopted by the Joint Committee on the Library at meeting of March 13, 1950). Statues should represent the full length of the individual.

**Material.** The statue must be made of marble or bronze.

**Pedestal.** To reduce weight, the Architect of the Capitol recommends that the pedestal be a hollow steel frame faced in marble or granite or be made of bronze. It is also recommended that the pedestal be designed and constructed with a removable panel to allow access to attachment bolts. The pedestal design, dimensions, and weight must be submitted to the Architect of the Capitol for approval.

**Inscriptions.** Inscriptions on the pedestal should include the name of the State and of the individual represented. The preferred option is to carve such inscriptions. Alternatively, they can be engraved or cast on a plaque. Any additional inscription should be submitted for review and approval to the Joint Committee on the Library via the Architect of the Capitol.

**Size and Weight.** New statues should be no more than 7 feet in height, with the statue and pedestal not exceeding 10 feet in total height. The total weight of the statue and its pedestal should be no more than 10,000 pounds. A replacement statue should be no taller or heavier than the statue being replaced.

**Patina and Coating.** For bronze statues, the selected patina and coating must be easily maintained and repaired. Formulas must be provided to the Architect of the Capitol for use during future maintenance.

**Other Considerations.** The statue and pedestal should not be a potential source of safety hazards. They should not have any protruding or sharp element that could cause harm or be an obstacle for persons in the building.

### Relevant Legislation

The law creating National Statuary Hall is the act of July 2, 1864 (2 U.S.C. §2131) (formerly 40 U.S.C. 187), which established that each state had the right to donate “statues, in marble or bronze, not exceeding two in number for each State, of deceased persons who have been citizens thereof, and illustrious for their historic renown or for distinguished civic or military services . . . .”

This law was modified in 2000 by Sec. 311 of H.R. 5657 (included by reference in H.R. 4577) and established as law by P.L. 106-554, which provides that “Any state may request the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress to approve the replacement of a statue the State has provided for display in Statuary Hall in the Capitol of the United States . . . .” 2 U.S.C. §2132.

Supervision and direction of the collection are assigned to the Architect of the Capitol by the act of August 15, 1876 (19 Stat. 147), 2 U.S.C. §2131.

With the approval of the congressional Joint Committee on the Library, the Architect of the Capitol is responsible for the reception and location of the statues in this collection, first established by H. Con. Res. 47, agreed to February 24, 1933, and included in P.L. 106-554. 2 U.S.C. §2132.

### Excerpt From Public Law 106-554

SEC. 311. (a)(1) Any State may request the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress to approve the replacement of a statue the State has provided for display in Statuary Hall in the Capitol of the United States under section 1814 of the Revised Statutes (40 U.S.C. 187).

(2) A request shall be considered under paragraph (1) only if-

(A) the request has been approved by a resolution adopted by the legislature of the State and the request has been approved by the Governor of the State, and

(B) the statue to be replaced has been displayed in the Capitol of the United States for at least 10 years as of the time the request is made, except that the Joint Committee may waive this requirement for cause at the request of a State.

(b) If the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress approves a request under subsection (a), the Ar-

chitect of the Capitol shall enter into an agreement with the State to carry out the replacement in accordance with the request and any conditions the Joint Committee may require for its approval. Such agreement shall provide that--

(1) the new statue shall be subject to the same conditions and restrictions as apply to any statue provided by a State under section 1814 of the Revised Statutes (40 U.S.C. 187), and

(2) the State shall pay any costs related to the replacement, including costs in connection with the design, construction, transportation, and placement of the new statue, the removal and transportation of the statue being replaced, and any unveiling ceremony.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to permit a State to have more than two statues on display in the Capitol of the United States.

(d)(1) Subject to the approval of the Joint Committee on the Library, ownership of any statue replaced under this section shall be transferred to the State.

(2) If any statue is removed from the Capitol of the United States as part of a transfer of ownership under paragraph (1), then it may not be returned to the Capitol for display unless such display is specifically authorized by Federal law.

(e) The Architect of the Capitol, upon the approval of the Joint Committee on the Library and with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as requested, is authorized and directed to relocate within the United States Capitol any of the statues received from the States under section 1814 of the Revised Statutes (40 U.S.C. 187) prior to the date of the enactment of this Act, and to provide for the reception, location, and relocation of the statues received hereafter from the States under such section.

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