

SUBJECT: Monuments on State Capitol grounds

COMMITTEE: House Administration — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Goolsby, Luna, Chisum, Hamric, Hawley, Maxey, West
0 nays
4 absent — Alvarado, Bailey, Telford, Tillery

WITNESSES: For — None
Against — None
On — Rick Crawford, State Preservation Board

BACKGROUND : The State Preservation Board was created in 1983 to maintain and preserve the grounds and contents of the State Capitol and the old General Land Office building. The board approves all changes to the buildings and their grounds, including the installation of monuments and new landscaping.

There are 19 sites for monuments on the grounds of the capitol: 13 have been installed, four are in the planning stages, and two sites are available for proposed future monuments. A monument site is reserved by means of a concurrent resolution directing the State Preservation Board to approve the design, location, and installation of the proposed monument.

DIGEST: HB 3517 would require monuments to be installed within four years of receiving approval from the State Preservation Board. If a monument was not completely installed within the four-year time span, approval would be withdrawn and the monument could not be installed.

HB 3517 would take immediate effect if finally approved by a two-thirds record vote of the membership in each house, and would apply to monuments approved by the board before the effective date.

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- SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 3517 would provide a fair method of apportioning the limited space on the State Capitol grounds. Currently, when the Legislature adopts a resolution reserving a spot for a monument on the Capitol grounds, the group responsible for the proposed monument begins fundraising to pay for design and installation. However, the space for the monument is reserved indefinitely, regardless of whether enough money is raised to install the monument. HB 3517 would correct this problem by setting a four-year time limit for the installation of approved monuments. Those seeking monuments approved in the past have had adequate time to raise the funds necessary for installation and based on past experience four years should be sufficient.
- OPPONENTS SAY:** HB 3517 would unfairly apply to monuments approved in the past. The bill should allow all previously approved monuments to be constructed within four years from the effective date of the act.
- NOTES:** HCR 58 by Coleman, reserving a site on the Capitol grounds for a monument commemorating the Girl Scouts, was adopted by the House on April 14 and has been referred to the Senate Administration Committee.