

SUBJECT: Cenotaph honoring 19th-century African American Texas legislators

COMMITTEE: Culture, Recreation, and Tourism — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 5 ayes — Hilderbran, Kuempel, Homer, Howard, O'Day

0 nays

2 absent — Dukes, Phillips

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, May 1 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: (*On House companion bill, HB 1317 by Dukes:*)
For — Harry Bradley, Texas State Cemetery; Barry Hutcheson, Travis County Historical Commission; Karen Riles, City of Austin; Larry Thomas

Against — None

On — Edward Johnson, Texas Building and Procurement Commission

BACKGROUND: The State Cemetery Committee oversees all operations of the Texas State Cemetery. The committee is appropriated money by the Legislature through the Texas Building and Procurement Commission. These monies are used for operations of the State Cemetery, including maintenance of the State Cemetery grounds and monuments.

DIGEST: SB 537 would require the State Cemetery Committee to provide for the design and construction of a cenotaph in the State Cemetery in honor of 19th-century African American members of the Texas Legislature. The Texas Building and Procurement Commission could provide financial, technical, or other assistance to the committee related to the design and construction of the cenotaph or contracting for these services.

If the State Cemetery Committee did not receive enough appropriations to enable the committee to design and construct the cenotaph, the Texas Building and Procurement Commission would transfer up to \$20,000 to the committee for its completion.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2007.

NOTES:

The House companion bill, HB 1317 by Dukes, was reported favorably by the House Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Committee on April 10 and recommended for the Local and Consent Calendars Committee.

The fiscal note indicates no significant impact to state general revenue. Funds would be used from the existing Texas Building and Procurement Commission budget.