

Legislative Update for February 9-12, 2021

House Bill 8 (Repeals the Alabama Preservation Act of 2017)

Sponsor: Representatives *Givan and Daniels*

Committee: Judiciary

This bill repeals the monuments bill and will also require the Department of Archives and History or the Alabama Historical Commission to accept the transfer of ownership of monuments, maintain the monuments and provide for the appropriate display of the monuments from counties or municipalities. The counties and municipalities will pay all associated cost for the removal and relocation of the monuments. However, there is no mention of funds for the upkeep of these monuments.

Update: This bill will be heard in Committee on 2/10/21 at 1:30 p.m. Room 200. No actions were taken on this bill in Committee.

House Bill 44 (Revises membership of the Alabama Historical Records Advisory Board)

Sponsor: Representative *Hall*

Committee: State Government

This bill would revise the membership of the Alabama Historical Records Advisory Board. This bill would revise the list of entities that are authorized to name members to the Board of Advisors to the Alabama Historical Commission. It removes the Alabama Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Alabama Department of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Update: No action taken this week.

House Bill 242 (Renames the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act of 2017)

Sponsors: Representative *Holmes and others*

Committee: State Government

This bill would rename the act as the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act of 2021 and revise the definitions and prohibitions against the disturbances of certain historically significant buildings, memorial buildings, memorial schools, memorial streets, and monuments. It Also adds term limits for the membership of the Committee of Alabama Monument Protection and authorizes the committee to review and grant or deny applications for petitions for the waiver of certain prohibitions and petitions to raze certain historically significant buildings. The bill imposes fines for some violations and provides for the collection and deposit of those fines into the Alabama State Historic Preservation Fund.

Update: No action taken this week.

House Bill 281 (Extends the Rehabilitation Tax Credit through 2029)

Sponsor: Representative Gaston & Others

Committee: Ways and Means Education

This bill would extend the tax credits for qualified rehabilitation expenditures for certified historic structures through 2029.

Update: No action taken this week.

House Bill 297 (Education Trust Fund Budget)

Sponsor: Representative Poole

Committee: House Ways and Means Education

The AHC is included in the Education Trust Fund Budget with an appropriation of \$2,442,038. \$1,300,000 is for grants to other entities.

Update: No action taken this week.

House Bill 309 (General Fund)

Sponsors: Representatives Clouse

Committee: Ways and Means General Fund

The AHC's General Fund appropriation is \$2,759,993, included in this amount is line item appropriations of \$50,000 for each of the following historical sites: Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives, Brierfield, Museum of East Alabama, Blakeley, Fendall Hall, St. Stephens, Tannehill, Historic Holman House, Fort Morgan, and the National Monument Park-Calhoun County.

Update: No action taken this week.

Senate Joint Resolution 10 (Creates a Semiquincentennial Commission)

Sponsors: Senator Orr and others

Committee: Rules

This SJR creates the Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to plan, promote and implement public celebrations and commemorations of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026. The AHC may be asked to serve on an advisory committee.

Update: This SJR has received a favorable vote out of the Senate and passed to the House on February 11 and was approved by the House. The SJR has been sent to the Governor's office for her signature.

Notes:

Lisa Jones met with Representative Clouse, the Chairman of General Fund committee to discuss the AHC budget on Tuesday, February 9th.

The Legislature will not be in session next week. They return on February 23, 2021.