Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Amber Hardesty

H.B. 60

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Murray and Gardner, Celeste, Szollosi, Lundy, Pillich, Carey, Yuko, O'Brien, Stebelton

BILL SUMMARY

- Requests the Congressional Joint Committee on the Library of Congress to approve the replacement of Ohio's statue of Governor William Allen in the National Statuary Hall Collection with a statue of Thomas Edison.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Replacement of statue in National Statuary Hall

Under the bill, the state of Ohio requests that the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress approve the replacement of Ohio's statue of Governor William Allen in the National Statuary Hall Collection with a statue of Thomas Edison.

Under the Procedure for Replacement of Statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection,[1] Ohio submits the following information for consideration by the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress through the bill:

First, the bill states that Thomas Edison, a native of Milan, Ohio, was a world famous inventor and highly successful businessperson whose inventions, such as the phonograph, the kinetoscope (a precursor to the film projector), and the first practical incandescent light bulb, have had a tremendous impact on the world. In addition to these inventions, Edison's service to the U.S. Government has also impacted world history. During World War I, Edison consulted for the government, examining inventions submitted for military use and working on defensive devices for submarines and ships. For his service, Edison eventually was awarded a Distinguished Service

[1] http://www.aoc.gov/cc/art/nsh//upload/statue_replacement_guidelines_1.pdf.

Medal by the Department of the Navy. By the time of his death, he had received over 1,000 patents.

Next, the bill states that Thomas Edison also has had a significant impact on Ohio. He established the Edison Steel Company in Cleveland, and established one of the first electric power stations in Tiffin. His General Electric Company established the first industrial park in Ohio, which has employed hundreds of thousands of people over time.

Also, the Department of Development sponsors The Thomas Edison Award, which was established in partnership with the Edison Birthplace Museum in Milan. The Edison Birthplace Museum has been instrumental in the issuance of a Thomas Edison stamp and commemorative silver dollar, and has received, on Thomas Edison's behalf, a posthumously awarded GRAMMY Award.

For these reasons, the bill concludes that Thomas Edison's impact on the world, and, in particular, on Ohio, through his inventions, business endeavors, and government service, merits inclusion of a statue of him in the National Statuary Hall Collection.

The Ohio Statuary Hall Commission, a nonprofit Ohio corporation, was established in 2009 for the purpose of assisting with the process of recommending an Ohio citizen for statuary representation in the National Statuary Hall Collection, including raising funds and providing financial support for that effort. If the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress approves the replacement statue request, the Commission is to be responsible for the selection of a sculptor for the Thomas Edison statue as well as for paying all costs incurred for placing the Thomas Edison statue in the United States Capitol, including costs incurred for all of the following: (1) paying the sculptor, (2) carving or casting the statue, (3) creating a pedestal and any inscription, (4) transporting the statue and pedestal to the United States Capitol, (5) removing and transporting the replaced statue, (6) temporarily erecting the new statue in the Rotunda of the Capitol for the unveiling ceremony, (7) expenses related to the unveiling ceremony, and (8) any other expenses that the Ohio Statuary Hall Commission finds it to be necessary to incur.

As required by the Procedure for Replacement of Statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection, the bill requires the Governor to submit to the Architect of the Capitol a copy of this bill, as enacted, along with a letter from the Governor, requesting approval from the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress to replace Ohio's statue of Governor William Allen in the National Statuary Hall Collection with a statue of Thomas Edison.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	01-26-11

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