

Legislative Update for March 1-4, 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 was in Committee on 3/3 but did not get a favorable vote in the 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.

No Update this week 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.

No Update this week 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: Bill was heard in Committee on 2/24. It was amended to reduce the extension from 2029 to 2027. The amendment also states that the credit “shall only be reserved for rehabilitation projects that will be used for commercial or business purpose.” This removes the residential component. It also clarifies that the tax credit would be refundable to a transferee of the credit. It was voted out of committee by favorable vote. HB 281 had a 3rd reading on the floor of the house on 2/25 and passed. It has been engrossed in the House and now heads for the Senate Committee Finance and Taxation Education

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.

No Update this week 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: This bill was heard in Committee on 3/3 and was substituted. AHC's appropriation increased \$560,000 and also had some additional line items added. The substitute passed out of committee with a favorable vote. The bill awaits 3rd reading in the House.

Bills and Resolutions signed by the Governor

Senate Joint Resolution 10 (Creates a Semi quincennial Commission)

Sponsors: *Senator Orr and others*

Committee: Rules

This SJR creates the Alabama USA semi quincennial 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 was signed by the Governor and is assigned Act No. 2021-14.