

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, January 29, 2021
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW40
MEMBERS: Chairman Crane, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Representatives Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Scott, Andrus, Young, Furniss, Hanks, Skaug, Gannon, Mathias
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Palmer
GUESTS: None

Rep. Andrus called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

RS 28345: **Rep. Nate** presented **RS 28345**, relating to bond and levy ballot disclosure. This proposed legislation has been brought before the committee twice before as **RS 28252**. **RS 28345** includes all of the recommended edits from the Secretary of State's office. Language has been moved to different sections but materially, this is the same proposed legislation which has been discussed and debated in prior committee meetings.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 28345** and recommended it be sent directly to the second reading calendar.

During discussion, a committee member raised concerns about limiting free speech.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:** Motion carried by voice vote. **Rep. Gannon** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Nate** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 28357: **Rep. Okuniewicz** presented **RS 28357** to preserve historical monuments on public property. Statues could not be removed, disturbed or altered without approval of the legislature by way of concurrent resolution. He noted that erasing history is not right. **Rep. Okuniewicz** studied laws from several states and used South Carolina's law as a basis for this proposed legislation. South Carolina's law has been in effect for over 20 years and is stable. He added changes would need to be approved through concurrent resolution by the legislature. It was noted a correction that needs to be made in the Statement of Purpose. The word perseveres needs to be replaced with preserves.

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to introduce **RS 28357**.

In response to questions, **Rep. Okuniewicz** said he is open to amending language, making the list of monument subjects more inclusive. For example, using Indigenous people rather than Native American. He stated that penalties for defacing the monuments or statues are included in vandalism laws. It was noted that all races and cultures have a certain bias and racism attached. To have a monument or statue removed from public property, a concurrent resolution would need to be presented to the legislature. It would receive a public hearing and go through the legislative process. The concurrent resolution does not have to be signed by the Governor to be enacted.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Motion carried by voice vote.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Representative Andrus
Committee Member

Kelly Staskey
Secretary