HB 629 2024

1 2 3

4 5

6 7

8 9

10 11

12 13

14

15 16

17 18

19 20

21 22

23 24

25

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Florida Women's Historical Marker Initiative; providing a short title; establishing the Florida Women's Historical Marker Initiative within the Division of Historical Resources of the Department of State; providing the purpose of the initiative; establishing the Women's Historical Marker Selection Committee; providing for membership and duties; providing criteria for recognition by the initiative; requiring the Florida Historical Marker Program to place a certain number of historical markers over a certain time period; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the significant contributions of Florida women are noticeably absent from the more than 1,200 historical markers in Florida which honor historic places, people, and events, with fewer than 20 women recognized, and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to world-renowned women scientists, writers, educators, pilots, oceanographers, designers, conservationists, and athletes, most of whom have not been honored with a historical marker, and

WHEREAS, inspired by the achievements of the women who have gone before them, the women and girls of Florida, through the Florida Women's Historical Marker Initiative, will see

Page 1 of 4

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

HB 629 2024

26	themselves reflected in the state's history and gain
27	encouragement in the development and fulfillment of their own
28	aspirations, NOW, THEREFORE,
29	
30	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
31	
32	Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Florida Women's
33	Historical Marker Initiative."
34	Section 2. (1) The Florida Women's Historical Marker
35	Initiative is established within the Division of Historical
36	Resources of the Department of State. The purpose of the
37	initiative is to recognize the contributions of 100 women,
8 8	living or deceased, to the history of this state with the
39	placement of historical markers by the Florida Historical Marker
10	Program.
11	(2)(a) The Women's Historical Marker Selection Committee
12	is established to select those women who will be recognized by
13	the initiative. The membership of the committee must consist of:
14	1. Three members appointed by the Governor, two of whom
15	must be noted Florida historians.
16	2. One member appointed by the President of the Senate.
17	3. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
18	Representatives.
19	4. One member appointed by the Secretary of State.
50	5. A member of the Florida Commission on the Status of

Page 2 of 4

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

HB 629 2024

51 Women.

- <u>6. A representative of the Division of Historical</u> Resources.
  - 7. A member of the State Historical Marker Council.
  - 8. Two members of the general public.
- (b) In selecting women to be recognized by the initiative, the committee shall conduct its own research and solicit input from the general public.
- (3) (a) A woman selected by the Women's Historical Marker Selection Committee to be recognized must have been born in, resided in, or been employed in this state and must have significantly contributed to the state of Florida, her county, or her specific community.
- (b) A woman recognized for a specific contribution or achievement may be living, but such contribution or achievement must have occurred more than 30 years before such recognition. A woman may be recognized for a lifetime achievement, but such woman must have been deceased for at least 30 years before such recognition.
- (c) At least one woman from each of the state's 67 counties must be recognized, and the remaining 33 women recognized shall be selected by the Women's Historical Marker Selection Committee.
- (4) The Florida Historical Marker Program shall place 100 historical markers, recognizing one woman for each marker,

Page 3 of 4

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

HB 629 2024

throughout the state within the next 10 years, with 10 markers
placed each year. The first 10 markers must be placed by
December 31, 2025. The final marker must be placed by December
31, 2035.
Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Page 4 of 4