

Senate Bill 279

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th and Anavitarte of the 31st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state
2 flag, seal, and other symbols, so as to provide for placement of a statue garden known as the
3 "Garden of Heroes" in honor of Georgia heroes upon the grounds of the state capitol
4 building; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for
5 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that Georgia is rich with a diverse array of influential heroes
9 who have led, inspired, and shaped our state and the lives of its residents.

10 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that a selection of Georgia heroes be
11 commemorated in a "Garden of Heroes" statue garden upon the grounds of the state capitol
12 building. Georgians to be considered in the selection process to be memorialized in the
13 Garden of Heroes may include, but shall not be limited to, Henry "Hank" Aaron, Shirley
14 Franklin, Coretta Scott King, Ray Charles, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and former
15 First Lady Rosalynn Carter, Herman Russell, John Lewis, Johnny Isakson, David Ralston,
16 Zell Miller, James Brown, Gladys Knight, Roberto Crispulo Goizueta Cantera, Vince
17 Dooley, Herman Cain, S. Truett Cathy, Ossie Davis, Maynard H. Jackson, Sam Massell, Sam

18 Nunn, Alice Walker, Newt Gingrich, Evander Holyfield, Tommy Irvin, George W. Jenkins,
19 Martin Luther King, Jr., Brian Kemp, Little Richard, Samuel Jackson, Otis Redding, Jackie
20 Robinson, Clarence Thomas, C.T. Vivian, Andrew Young, Benjamin E. Mays, Jesse Hill,
21 Bill Elliot, Pastor Charles Stanley, Pastor Creflo Dollar, André 3000, John Wesley Dobbs,
22 Ted Turner, C.E. Woolman, Dominique Wilkins, Arthur Blank, Juliette Gordon Low, Paul
23 Coverdell, University of Georgia mascot Uga, and Georgia Institute of Technology mascot
24 Buzz.

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SECTION 2.

26 Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state flag, seal,
27 and other symbols, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

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"ARTICLE 829 50-3-130.

30 (a) Subject to the availability of funds, there shall be placed upon the grounds of the state
31 capitol building a statue garden known as the 'Garden of Heroes' to honor the contributions,
32 memory, and legacy of Georgia heroes.

33 (b)(1) Such Garden of Heroes shall be designed, procured, and placed by the Capitol Art
34 Standards Commission, subject to final approval by the Garden of Heroes Committee
35 composed of the following members of the General Assembly:

36 (A) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
37 House of Representatives;

38 (B) Two members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

39 (C) Three members of the General Assembly appointed by the Governor;

40 (D) The current chair of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus;

41 (E) The current chair of the Georgia Hispanic Caucus; and

42 (F) The current chair of the Georgia Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus.
43 (2) The Garden of Heroes Committee established pursuant to this subsection shall stand
44 abolished upon placement of such Garden of Heroes.
45 (c) No public funds shall be expended for the design, procurement, or placement of such
46 Garden of Heroes. Gifts and donations from private individuals, organizations, or
47 foundations shall be accepted and expended by the Capitol Art Standards Commission to
48 carry out the requirements of this Code section.
49 (d) Such Garden of Heroes shall be procured and placed as soon as practicable but not
50 before the state has been granted any intellectual property license necessary for purposes
51 of this Code section."

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SECTION 3.

53 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.