

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 476

By Summerville

A RESOLUTION to establish a special joint committee to review the inscriptions presented on the statues and monuments located in and around the grounds of the state capitol building.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee State Capitol is a national historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, historic monuments located in and around the capital building include statues of Andrew Jackson and Andrew Johnson, two of the three Tennessee residents who served as President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, James K. Polk, a Tennessee resident and the eleventh President of the United States, is buried in a tomb on the grounds, together with his wife, Sarah Childress Polk; and

WHEREAS, other such monuments also include the Sgt. Alvin C. York Memorial, the Tennessee Holocaust Commission Memorial, the Sam Davis Memorial, the Senator Edward Ward Carmack Memorial, and the Middle Passage Memorial; and

WHEREAS, each year, thousands of school children, Tennessee residents, and tourists tour the Capitol building to study our state's diverse heritage, which is reflected in the architecture, art, and furnishings throughout the capitol, as well as by its monuments and statues; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the importance of this historical landmark, the General Assembly should verify and ensure the factual accuracy of the inscriptions presented on the monuments and statues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that there is created a special joint committee to review the inscriptions presented on the statues and monuments located in and around the state capitol building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall consist of six (6) members, as follows:

(1) One (1) member of the state government committee of the house of representatives, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(2) Two (2) members of the house of representatives, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(3) One (1) member of the state and local government committee of the senate, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate; and

(4) Two (2) members of the senate, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all members of the special joint committee shall be appointed no later than July 1, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tennessee historical commission shall provide necessary administrative support to the special joint committee as requested.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the general assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly, and at its first meeting, the committee shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the state and local government committee of the senate and to the state government committee of the house of representatives by February 1, 2015, at which time the special joint committee shall cease to exist.