
HOUSE BILL 1372

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representative Lekanoff

1 AN ACT Relating to replacing the Marcus Whitman statue in the
2 national statuary hall collection with a statue of Billy Frank Jr.;
3 adding a new section to chapter 43.08 RCW; creating new sections; and
4 providing a contingent expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

7 (1) In 1864, the national statuary hall collection was
8 established in the United States capitol authorizing each state to
9 contribute two statues to the collection. The statues must be of
10 deceased persons who were citizens of the respective state and are
11 historically important figures or known for their distinguished civic
12 or military service.

13 (2) Washington has contributed to the collection a statue of
14 Mother Joseph in 1980 and a statue of Marcus Whitman in 1953.

15 (3) Marcus Whitman was a missionary who traveled to present-day
16 Washington state with his wife Narcissa. Together, they established
17 several missions as well as their own settlement, Waiilatupu, near
18 present-day Walla Walla. Whitman assisted in the "great emigration"
19 of 1843, which established the Oregon trail. Whitman's contributions
20 to the creation of Washington were profound and important. Whitman
21 has represented the state in the statuary hall for nearly 70 years.

1 The legislature finds that it is appropriate to replace his statue
2 with one of a more contemporary Washingtonian to further celebrate
3 the state and the continuous contributions Washingtonians have made
4 in the 20th and 21st centuries.

5 (4) In the 1850s, the United States government signed a series of
6 treaties with tribes in the region under which the tribes ceded
7 millions of acres of land to the United States in exchange for
8 agreeing to live on reservations while reserving what was most
9 important to them: The right to continue to hunt, fish, and gather in
10 all of their traditional places. Billy Frank Jr., born on March 9,
11 1931, on the banks of the Nisqually river in Washington, was a
12 Nisqually tribal member and fought tirelessly to ensure that the
13 United States government would honor the promises made in the
14 treaties with Washington tribes. During his efforts, Billy Frank Jr.
15 was arrested more than 50 times for exercising his treaty-protected
16 right to fish for salmon, the first arrest being when he was 14 years
17 old. He helped to stage "fish-ins" as protests, where he and others
18 demanded that treaty tribes have the right to fish in their usual and
19 accustomed places, a right that had been reserved in the treaty of
20 Medicine Creek. His activism and perseverance paved the way for the
21 "Boldt decision" in *United States v. Washington*, which affirmed the
22 right of Washington treaty tribes to take up to half of the
23 harvestable salmon in western Washington, reaffirmed tribal treaty-
24 reserved rights, and established the tribes as comanagers of the
25 salmon resource.

26 (5) Billy Frank Jr. dedicated his life advocating for equality,
27 justice, and environmental protections. He fought to protect tribal
28 treaty rights, native cultures and traditions, and the natural
29 resources they are based upon, including fish and shellfish. Despite
30 long-standing persecution, Billy Frank Jr. worked tirelessly to
31 protect salmon for the benefit and enjoyment of all Washingtonians.
32 When salmon populations plummeted toward extinction, eventually to
33 the point of being listed as threatened under the federal endangered
34 species act, Billy Frank Jr. vocally advocated to unify people to
35 reverse the trend. His endless work on salmon recovery was based on
36 inclusivity and an understanding that tribal treaty rights will help
37 recover salmon and would benefit the entire society and the economy
38 in enumerable ways.

39 (6) Billy Frank Jr. was a patron and the longtime chairman of,
40 the northwest Indian fisheries commission, which assists its 20

1 member tribes in managing salmon and other natural resources and
2 upholding tribal treaty rights, serves as an information
3 clearinghouse, provides a forum for tribes to address issues of
4 mutual concern, and works to establish relationships with government
5 agencies and nongovernment organizations to recover salmon.

6 (7) Billy Frank Jr.'s unwavering commitment to the fight for
7 equality and the fight against racism and abuse was of global
8 influence.

9 (8) Billy Frank Jr. has been likened to other humanitarians and
10 civil rights leaders such as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,
11 Cesar Chavez, and Nelson Mandela.

12 (9) In recognition of his distinguished accomplishments, Billy
13 Frank Jr. was awarded the Albert Schweitzer prize for
14 humanitarianism, the common cause award for human rights efforts, the
15 American Indian distinguished service award, the Washington state
16 environmental excellence award, and the Wallace Stegner award. Billy
17 Frank Jr. was posthumously awarded the presidential medal of freedom
18 by President Barack Obama.

19 (10) Congress passed the Billy Frank Jr. tell your story act,
20 renaming the Nisqually national wildlife refuge in honor of Billy
21 Frank Jr., and establishing a national memorial within the Billy
22 Frank Jr. Nisqually national wildlife refuge to commemorate the
23 location of the signing of the 1854 treaty of Medicine Creek between
24 the United States government and the Nisqually, Muckleshoot,
25 Puyallup, and Squaxin Island tribes.

26 (11) Billy Frank Jr. passed away on May 5, 2014, but he continues
27 to be an inspiration to many domestically and abroad.

28 (12) Billy Frank Jr. is a significant historical and civil rights
29 figure who is worthy of recognition and inclusion in the national
30 statutory hall collection.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** It is the intent and request of the
32 legislature that the statue of Marcus Whitman be removed from the
33 national statutory hall collection at the United States capitol and
34 replaced with a statue of Billy Frank Jr., upon the approval of the
35 joint committee on the library of congress in accordance with 2
36 U.S.C. Sec. 2132.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The Billy Frank Jr. national statuary
2 hall selection committee is established to represent the state in the
3 duties set forth under subsection (3) of this section.

4 (2) (a) The committee shall consist of the following members:

5 (i) The governor or the governor's designee;

6 (ii) The lieutenant governor;

7 (iii) The speaker of the house of representatives;

8 (iv) The minority leader of both the senate and house of
9 representatives;

10 (v) Two members who represent the western Washington treaty
11 tribes, appointed by the governor. The governor shall solicit from
12 the northwest Indian fisheries commission a list of at least three
13 nominees representing the western Washington treaty tribes and, in
14 making the appointment, shall consider the list of nominees
15 submitted;

16 (vi) One member representing an environmental, conservation, or
17 environmental justice nonprofit organization, appointed by the
18 governor;

19 (vii) One member from Billy Frank Jr.'s family, appointed by the
20 governor;

21 (viii) One member from the Washington state legacy project,
22 created under RCW 43.07.363;

23 (ix) One member from the division of archives and records
24 management, established under RCW 40.14.020;

25 (x) One member from the Washington state historical society;

26 (xi) One member from the Washington state department of
27 archaeology and historic preservation; and

28 (xii) One member from the Washington state arts commission.

29 (b) The members described in (a) of this subsection shall select
30 a chair of the committee.

31 (3) Upon the approval of the request under section 2 of this act
32 by the joint committee on the library of congress, the governor shall
33 convene the committee, and the committee shall:

34 (a) Enter into an agreement with the architect of the United
35 States capitol pursuant to 2 U.S.C. Sec. 2132 to carry out the
36 replacement of the statues as described in this act;

37 (b) Select and contract with a sculptor to design and carve or
38 cast a statue of Billy Frank Jr., and design and fabricate its
39 pedestal, to be placed in the national statuary hall collection;

1 (c) Ensure that the statue designed and created under (b) of this
2 subsection complies with the conditions and restrictions set forth
3 under 2 U.S.C. Sec. 2131;

4 (d) Arrange, in coordination with the architect of the United
5 States capitol, for the removal and transportation of the Marcus
6 Whitman statue to Washington, and arrange for an unveiling ceremony
7 at the relocation site as chosen by the governor under section 4 of
8 this act;

9 (e) Arrange for the transportation and placement of the Billy
10 Frank Jr. statue, in coordination with the architect of the United
11 States capitol;

12 (f) Arrange for one or more ceremonies to celebrate the unveiling
13 of the Billy Frank Jr. statue. The ceremonies may take place in
14 Washington state, the United States capitol, or both; and

15 (g) Perform all other matters and things necessary to carry out
16 the purpose and provisions of this section.

17 (4) The committee may accept gifts, grants, or endowments from
18 public and private sources that are made in trust or otherwise for
19 the use and benefit of the purposes of the committee in carrying out
20 this act. The committee may spend gifts, grants, or endowments or
21 income from public or private sources according to their terms,
22 unless the receipt of the gifts, grants, or endowments violates RCW
23 42.17A.560.

24 (5) No general fund resources may be expended to implement this
25 section.

26 (6) For the purposes of this section, "committee" means the Billy
27 Frank Jr. national statuary hall selection committee.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The governor shall select the location
29 where the Marcus Whitman statue will be displayed after it is removed
30 from the national statuary hall collection and transferred to the
31 state.

32 (2) By September 30, 2021, the governor shall submit to the
33 architect of the United States capitol a written request to remove
34 the Marcus Whitman statue and replace it with a statue of Billy Frank
35 Jr. The request must include a description of the location in
36 Washington where the Marcus Whitman statue will be displayed after it
37 is transferred to the state, and a copy of this act authorizing the
38 replacement.

1 (3) The governor shall notify the architect of the United States
2 capitol in writing that the committee established under section 3 of
3 this act is the entity that will act on behalf of the state in the
4 replacement process.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.08
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The Billy Frank Jr. national statuary hall collection fund is
8 created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from
9 gifts, grants, or endowments from public and private sources must be
10 deposited into the fund. Expenditures from the fund may be used only
11 to carry out the provisions of this act. Only the chair of the
12 committee may authorize expenditures from the fund. The fund is
13 subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an
14 appropriation is not required for expenditures.

15 (2) This section expires when the duties under section 3 and 4 of
16 this act are completed.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The Billy Frank Jr. national statuary hall
18 selection committee must provide written notice of the expiration
19 date of section 5 of this act to affected parties, the chief clerk of
20 the house of representatives, the secretary of the senate, the office
21 of the code reviser, and others deemed appropriate by the committee.

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