



The State Senate

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON THE RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC SERVANTS

MEMBERS

The Honorable Charles C. Clay
Former Senator
Chairman

The Honorable Johnny Grant
Senator, District 25
Co-Vice Chairman

The Honorable Calvin Hill
Representative, District 21
Co-Vice Chairman

The Honorable George Hooks
Senator, District 14

The Honorable Calvin Smyre
Representative, District 132

The Honorable Susan Weiner
Executive Director - Georgia Council for the Arts

Ms. Dorothy Olson
Director - Georgia Capitol Museum

Mr. J. Ray Crawford, Jr.
Executive Director - Georgia Building Authority

Prepared by the Senate Research Office 2005/2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Creation and Duties	Page 2
Commission's Focus	Page 2
Commission's Findings	Page 2
Commission's Recommendations	Page 3
Commission's Conclusions	Page 6
In Memoriam - Mr. J. Ray Crawford, Jr.	Page 6
Signatures of Commission Members	Page 7

THE JOINT COMMISSION ON THE RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC SERVANTS

CREATION AND DUTIES

The Joint Commission on the Recognition of Public Servants was created under the authority of Senate Resolution 88 which was signed into law by Governor Sonny Perdue on May 10, 2005. The Commission was charged to establish a process to oversee an appropriate manner to honor our state leaders and heroes in a predictable and dignified way so the public can remember those so honored and learn and take inspiration from their achievements and sacrifices.

Former State Senator Charles C. Clay was appointed as the Commission's Chairman by Governor Sonny Perdue. The other members appointed to the Commission were: Senator Johnny Grant, Senator George Hooks, Representative Calvin Hill, Representative Calvin Smyre, The Honorable Susan Weiner, Ms. Dorothy Olson, and Mr. J. Ray Crawford, Jr.

The Commission held four meetings. The Commission took extensive testimony and reviewed legislation from other states studying policies addressing the display of arts and statuary on Capitol grounds.

COMMISSION'S FOCUS

The Commission dedicated itself, in unanimous agreement, to focus on solutions which will advance the ability of the State to maintain those pieces of art and statuary in the collection, take partisan politics out of the selection process of art and statuary, and to have historians and professionals have ultimate decision authority with advice and input from Members of the Georgia General Assembly.

COMMISSION'S FINDINGS

The Commission found that there should be created a Capitol Arts Standards Commission with appropriate numbers of Members appointed by the Governor, the State Senate, the State House and from appropriate institutions such as the Georgia Historical Society, the Georgia Council for the Humanities, and the Georgia Council for the Arts. Additionally, the Commission supports the appointment of an educator proficient in the history of the State of Georgia by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the Georgia Foundation for Independent Colleges.

COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission recommends that the Capitol Arts Standards Commission:

- Be responsible for developing policies and procedures for and to oversee the acquisition, installation, preservation, maintenance, display, and storage of all Capitol artwork;
- Establish a collection policy for all Capitol artwork;
- Develop standards and procedures for determining whether to acquire new artwork which will include criteria for judging the relevance of the subject, the historical significance to the State of Georgia, and the quality of the artwork produced and an approval process for such acquisitions;
- Develop a process for the selection, placement, installation, and rotation of artwork in the Capitol, in the Capitol Museum, and on the Capitol grounds;
- Develop policies and procedures for outgoing loans from the Capitol art collection and for temporary displays of artwork in the Capitol, in the Capitol Museum, and on the Capitol grounds;
- Develop deaccession policies and procedures for artwork in the Capitol art collection that should be removed based upon poor quality or lack of relevance or similar factors;
- Have the privilege to recommend to the Governor and the General Assembly changes in state statutes, policies, budgets, and standards relating to the Capitol art collection, with the objective of keeping the collection at the highest museum standards;
- May accept federal funds granted by Congress or executive order as well as gifts and donations from individuals, private organizations, or foundations. The acceptance and use of federal funds will not commit state funds and will not place an obligation upon the General Assembly to continue the purposes for which the federal funds are made available; and
- Will give final approval before artwork may be acquired or installed.

The Commission recommends that a bill or resolution authorizing or requiring the display of Capitol artwork may be introduced in the General Assembly only during the regular session which is held during the first year of the term of office of members of the General Assembly. Any such bill or resolution may be passed by the General Assembly only during the regular session which is held during the second year of the term of office of members of the General Assembly.

- The bill will be assigned to a Legislative Committee. If a majority of the total membership of the respective committee is opposed to the bill or resolution on its merits, no investigation or review by the Capitol Art Standards Commission shall be necessary, and the bill or resolution will not be reported out by the committee and will not be adopted or considered by the House or Senate.
- If a majority of the committee wishes to consider the bill or resolution further and votes in favor of an investigation or review of the bill or resolution, an investigation or review by the Capitol Art Standards Commission will be required.
- No such bill or resolution may be reported out of the committee to which it is assigned or may be considered or adopted by the House or Senate unless the investigation or review of the bill or resolution is made by the Capitol Art Standards Commission and approval of the proposed artwork is received from the Capitol Art Standards Commission.
- If the Capitol Art Standards Commission does not approve the proposed artwork, the Commission will state specifically its reasons for disapproval in writing.
- A bill or resolution authorizing or requiring the display of Capitol artwork which the committee wishes to consider will first be perfected, if necessary, by the committee. The committee may delay further consideration of the bill or resolution until after the close of the regular session during which the bill or resolution was introduced, but the committee will complete its consideration of the bill or resolution for submission to the Capitol Art Standards Commission by not later than July 15 immediately following the close of the legislative session.
- The committee is authorized to meet for not more than five days, unless additional days are authorized by the President of the Senate for the Senate committee or by the Speaker of the House for the House committee, during the period beginning with the day following the close of the session and ending on July 1 immediately following the close of the session for the purpose of considering and perfecting the bill or resolution.
- If the bill or resolution originated in the Senate, the appropriate House committee is authorized to meet with the Senate committee to consider and perfect a bill or resolution during the period following the close of a regular session, and, if the bill or resolution originated in the House, the appropriate Senate committee has the same authority.
- The committees may adopt such procedures as they find appropriate for conducting meetings at which both committees are present. For attending meetings of their respective committees, the members of the Senate and House committees will receive the expenses and allowances provided by law for members of legislative interim committees.

- Immediately after considering and perfecting such bill or resolution, the chairperson of the committee to which the bill or resolution was assigned will transmit an exact copy of the bill or resolution, as perfected by the committee, when applicable, to the Capitol Art Standards Commission.
- The submission of the bill or resolution to the Capitol Art Standards Commission will have attached a letter signed by the chairperson of the committee requesting the commission to make or cause to be made an investigation or review of the proposed artwork in the bill or resolution.
- When a bill or resolution authorizing or requiring the display of Capitol artwork has had an investigation or review by the Capitol Art Standards Commission and the Capitol Art Standards Commission approves the proposed artwork, the bill or resolution may be considered during the next regular session of the General Assembly.
- If the bill or resolution as originally introduced was not changed by the committee and the original version was submitted to the Capitol Art Standards Commission, then the original version of the bill or resolution is the only one which may be considered by any committee or by the House or Senate.
- If the original bill or resolution was substituted by the committee and the substitute version was the one submitted to the Capitol Art Standards Commission, then that substitute bill or resolution is the only one which may be considered by any committee or by the House or Senate.
- After completion of an investigation or review by the Capitol Art Standards Commission, any amendment to a bill or resolution authorizing or requiring the display of Capitol artwork will be out of order and shall not be allowed either by a committee or by the House or Senate, except for an amendment to correct technical, typographical, or stylistic errors.
- Any amendment to a bill or resolution authorizing or requiring the display of Capitol artwork shall be submitted to the Capitol Art Standards Commission by the chairperson of the committee or by the presiding officer of the Senate or House if the amendment was made by the Senate or House. If the Capitol Art Standards Commission certifies in writing that the amendment does not affect its decision to approve the proposed artwork contained in the bill or resolution, then the bill or resolution as amended may continue in the legislative process.
- If the Capitol Art Standards Commission will not issue such a certification for the amendment, the bill or resolution's progress in the legislative process will end, and the bill or resolution will not be considered further by either the House or Senate and, if passed by the General Assembly, the bill or resolution will not become law and will stand repealed in its entirety on the first day of July immediately following its enactment.

COMMISSION'S CONCLUSIONS

The Commission urges the Capitol Art Standards Commission to appoint an executive committee, comprised of an appropriate smaller number of the total membership, to help manage the workings of its work on a day-to-day basis.

The Commission feels very strongly and unanimously approved that the Capitol Arts Standards Commission have ultimate authority to approve or reject placement of art or statuary in the Capitol, in the Capitol Museum, and on the Capitol grounds and urges the General Assembly to support this position.

The Commission unanimously endorses House Bill 978 by Representatives Hill of the 21st and Smyre of the 132nd or any subsequent Senate Bill which reflects the findings of the Commission and urges its passage by the Georgia General Assembly and further urges His Excellency, Sonny Perdue, the Governor of the State of Georgia, to sign House Bill 978 into law upon passage by the Georgia General Assembly.

IN MEMORIAM

During the work of the Commission, Commission member Mr. J. Ray Crawford, Jr. passed away. The Commission wishes to recognize and honor the outstanding contribution of Ray Crawford. Ray Crawford was a true friend and humble servant to the citizens of Georgia. His friends on the Commission rejoice in his life and mourn his passing.

The Commission recommends and urges that the Capitol Arts Standard Commission pay appropriate respect and recognition to Ray Crawford at its first meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

THE JOINT COMMISSION ON THE RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC SERVANTS

**The Honorable Charles C. Clay
Chairman**

The Honorable Johnny Grant

The Honorable George Hooks

The Honorable Calvin Hill

The Honorable Calvin Smyre

The Honorable Susan Weiner

Ms. Dorothy Olson