

UNICAMERAL YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 807

Introduced by: [TBD]
Read first time June 11, 2018
Committee: Government

A BILL

FOR AN ACT relating to state government; to state findings; to provide for replacement of a statue in the National Sanctuary Hall of the United States Capitol as prescribed; to create a committee; and to provide duties.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares:

(1) In 1864, the United States Congress established the National Statuary Hall Collection in the Old Hall of the House of Representatives in the United States Capitol and authorized each state to contribute to the hall collection two statues that represent important historical figures of each state;

(2) Nebraska currently has on display in the National Statuary Hall Collection statues of William Jennings Bryan and Julius Sterling Morton given by the State of Nebraska in 1937;

(3) In 2000, the United States Congress enacted legislation authorizing states to request that the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress approve the replacement of a statue the state had provided for display in the hall collection;

(4) Willa Cather is a significant historical and literary figure from Red Cloud, Nebraska;

(5) Willa Cather immortalized Nebraska in such works as My Antonia and Oh Pioneers!;

(6) Willa Cather won the 1923 Pulitzer Prize for her novel One of Ours; and

(7) Willa Cather is worthy of recognition in the National Statuary Hall.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of State shall submit to the United States Architect of the Capitol for his or her review for completeness a written request to approve the replacement of the statue of Julius Sterling Morton currently on display in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol with a statue of Willa Cather. The written request shall request authorization to provide a new statue, a description of the location in Nebraska where the replaced statue will be displayed after it is transferred and a copy of the Nebraska statue authorizing such replacement. After such review, it is the intent of the Legislature that the architect forward the request to the Joint Committee of the Library of Congress for its approval or denial. If the request is approved by the committee, the architect and the Director of Administrative Services acting on behalf of the State of Nebraska shall enter into an agreement as provided in 2 U.S.C. 2132(b).

Sec. 3. (1) The National Statuary Hall Selection Committee is created. The committee shall consist of members of the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission created pursuant to

section 72-724.

(2) Upon approval by the Joint Committee of the Library of Congress and pursuant to the agreement described in section 2 of this act, the National Statuary Hall Selection Committee shall:

- (a) Select a sculptor to create a statue of Willa Cather to be placed in the National Statuary Hall and review and approve the plans for the statue; and
- (b) Identify a method to obtain necessary funding to pay for all of the following:
 - (i) The sculptor for designing and carving or casting the statue;
 - (ii) The design and fabrication of the pedestal;
 - (iii) The transportation of the statue and pedestal to the United States Capitol;
 - (iv) The removal and transportation of the replaced statue;
 - (v) The temporary placement of the new statue in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol for the unveiling ceremony;
 - (vi) The unveiling ceremony; and
 - (vii) Any other expenses that the committee determines are necessary to incur.

Statement of Intent

LB807 proposes to replace one of the two Nebraska representatives in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the U.S. Capitol with a statue of Willa Cather.

Fiscal Note

	FY2018-19		FY2019-20	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS				

The Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) estimates the cost to accomplish the bill's provisions to be \$150,000 per year. Since the funds would need to be raised, they are shown as Cash Funds in both the expenditure and revenue columns. The NSHS notes that the cost of an unveiling ceremony are highly variable and not included in this estimate. Furthermore, it should be noted that these costs are based on previous similar activities but may not be reflective of the actual costs eventually incurred. There is no basis to disagree with the estimates provided, but they may be significantly higher than anticipated.