

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SENATE BILL 1858

By: Bullard

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public grounds; amending 25 O.S. 2021, Section 2101, which relates to display of replicas of historical documents on public grounds; authorizing state to display certain items on public grounds; requiring display of certain monument; requiring certain determinations by specified officials; authorizing consultation with third parties; specifying requirements for certain funding; requiring approval for certain relocation; creating felony offense; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 25 O.S. 2021, Section 2101, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2101. A. ~~Every~~ The state and any county, municipality, city, town, school or any other political subdivision is authorized to display, in its public buildings and on its grounds, replicas of historical documents including, but not limited to, the Ten Commandments, Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, Oklahoma Constitution and other historically significant documents in the form of statues, monuments, memorials, tablets or any other display

1 that respects the dignity and solemnity of such documents. Such
2 documents shall be displayed in a manner consistent with the context
3 of other documents contained in such display.

4 B. A monument of the Ten Commandments shall be prominently
5 displayed and protected on the inside and outside of the Oklahoma
6 State Capitol as a symbol of its historic significance for Oklahoman
7 and American history. The Governor, the President Pro Tempore of
8 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
9 meet within one (1) year after the effective date of this act to
10 determine the design, placement, security, construction, and funding
11 of the monuments. Such officials may consult with third-party
12 groups to assist in making such determinations and with the
13 implementation of such determinations. Only donated funds may be
14 used for the design, placement, security, and construction of the
15 monuments. Monuments shall not be relocated once they are in place
16 without approval by three-fourths (3/4) of both houses of the
17 Legislature and approval of the Governor. Any person who knowingly
18 causes damage or destruction to the monuments shall be, upon
19 conviction, guilty of a felony.

20 C. In the event that the legality or constitutionality of any
21 such display is challenged in a court of law, the Oklahoma Attorney
22 General is authorized to prepare and present a legal defense of the
23 display.

1 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
2 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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