

## HB 674 -- Historical Monuments

Co-Sponsors: Merideth, Hunter, Mayer, Stevenson, Wagner, Davis (122), Kuessner

This bill establishes the State Historical Monuments, Memorials, and Markers Board within the Department of Natural Resources. The board's 12 members are appointed by the Governor, with approval of the Senate, and serve three-year staggered terms. The director of the department serves as chair with a tie-breaking vote, and the executive director of the State Historical Society is an ex-officio member. The board meets at least annually. Members serve without compensation, but are reimbursed for necessary expenses. The board maintains an inventory of historical monuments on public and private property; publishes an annual report; and holds public hearings on any addition, modification, or removal of permanent monuments, accepted practices, or permitted public ceremonies on department sites.

The bill also prohibits the department from erecting, modifying, or removing any permanent monument or amending any accepted practice or permitted public ceremony at a department site without notifying the public and holding a hearing at least 30 days prior to any planned action. Any monuments that were in place on December 21, 2002, must be returned before August 28, 2003. Anyone who removes, defaces, or destroys any monument, memorial, or veteran's grave marker is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.