

**By** the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability;  
and Senator Rodriguez

585-02363-24

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Florida Women's Historical  
3 Marker Initiative; providing a short title; creating  
4 s. 267.0744, F.S.; establishing the Florida Women's  
5 Historical Marker Initiative within the Division of  
6 Historical Resources of the Department of State;  
7 providing the purpose of the initiative; requiring the  
8 Florida Historical Marker Program to place a certain  
9 number of historical markers over a certain time  
10 period; establishing the Women's Historical Marker  
11 Selection Committee; providing for duties, membership  
12 and expiration of the committee; requiring the  
13 committee to conduct its own research and solicit  
14 public input in recommending women to be recognized;  
15 providing criteria for recognition by the initiative;  
16 providing an effective date.

17  
18 WHEREAS, the significant contributions of Florida women are  
19 noticeably absent from the more than 1,200 historical markers in  
20 Florida which honor historic places, people, and events, with  
21 fewer than 20 women recognized, and

22 WHEREAS, Florida is home to world-renowned women  
23 scientists, writers, educators, pilots, oceanographers,  
24 designers, conservationists, and athletes, most of whom have not  
25 been honored with a historical marker, and

26 WHEREAS, inspired by the achievements of the women who have  
27 gone before them, the women and girls of Florida, through the  
28 Florida Women's Historical Marker Initiative, will see  
29 themselves reflected in the state's history and gain

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30 encouragement in the development and fulfillment of their own  
31 aspirations, NOW, THEREFORE,

32  
33 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

34  
35 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Florida Women's  
36 Historical Marker Initiative."

37 Section 2. Section 267.0744, Florida Statutes, is created  
38 to read:

39 267.0744 Florida Women's Historical Marker Initiative.—

40 (1) The Florida Women's Historical Marker Initiative is  
41 established within the division. The purpose of the initiative  
42 is to recognize the contributions of 100 women, living or  
43 deceased, to the history of this state with the placement of  
44 historical markers by the Florida Historical Marker Program.

45 (2) The Florida Historical Marker Program shall place 100  
46 historical markers, recognizing one woman for each marker,  
47 throughout the state within the next 10 years, with 10 markers  
48 placed each year. The first 10 markers must be placed by  
49 December 31, 2025. The final marker must be placed by December  
50 31, 2034.

51 (3) (a) The Women's Historical Marker Selection Committee,  
52 an advisory committee as defined in s. 20.03(5) is created  
53 within the division. The purpose of the committee is to provide  
54 guidance and recommendations to the Secretary of State regarding  
55 the women who should be recognized by the initiative.

56 (b) The committee must recommend at least 25 women for  
57 recognition each fiscal year.

58 (c) From the women recommended by the committee, the

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59 Secretary of State shall select 100 women to be recognized under  
60 this initiative.

61 (4) (a) The committee shall be composed of 11 members  
62 appointed by the Secretary of State. The committee shall consist  
63 of:

64 1. Two noted Florida historians.

65 2. One member of the Florida Commission on the Status of  
66 Women.

67 3. One member of the Division of Historical Resources.

68 4. One member of the State Historical Marker Council.

69 5. Six members of the general public.

70 (b) The members shall be appointed for 2-year terms, except  
71 for an appointment to fill an unexpired term, in which event the  
72 appointments shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term  
73 only. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the  
74 committee shall operate in a manner consistent with s. 20.052.

75 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 20.03 limiting the  
76 duration of a committee to 3 years, the committee shall expire  
77 no later than June 30, 2028, or 30 days after the Secretary of  
78 State has selected 100 women under this section.

79 (d) In recommending women to be recognized by the  
80 initiative, the committee shall conduct its own research and  
81 solicit input from the general public.

82 (5) (a) For a woman to be recommended by the Women's  
83 Historical Marker Committee, she must have been born in, resided  
84 in, or been employed in this state and must have significantly  
85 contributed to the State of Florida, her county, or her specific  
86 community.

87 (b) A woman recognized for a specific contribution or

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88 achievement may be living, but such contribution or achievement  
89 must have occurred more than 30 years before such recognition. A  
90 woman may be recognized for her lifetime achievement, but such  
91 woman must have been deceased for at least 30 years before such  
92 recognition.

93 (c) At least one woman from each of the state's 67 counties  
94 must be recognized.

95 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.