

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 807**

Introduced by Harr, 8.

Read first time January 04, 2018

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to state government; to state findings; to
- 2 provide for replacement of a statue in the National Statuary Hall of
- 3 the United States Capitol as prescribed; to create a committee; and
- 4 to provide duties.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22          Sec. 2. The Secretary of State shall submit to the United States  
23 Architect of the Capitol for his or her review for completeness a written  
24 request to approve the replacement of the statue of Julius Sterling  
25 Morton currently on display in the National Statuary Hall Collection in  
26 the United States Capitol with a statue of Willa Cather. The written  
27 request shall request authorization to provide a new statue, a  
28 description of the location in Nebraska where the replaced statue will be  
29 displayed after it is transferred, and a copy of the Nebraska statute  
30 authorizing such replacement. After such review, it is the intent of the  
31 Legislature that the architect forward the request to the Joint Committee

1 on the Library of Congress for its approval or denial. If the request is  
2 approved by the committee, the architect and the Director of  
3 Administrative Services acting on behalf of the State of Nebraska shall  
4 enter into an agreement as provided in 2 U.S.C. 2132(b).

5 Sec. 3. (1) The National Statuary Hall Selection Committee is  
6 created. The committee shall consist of members of the Nebraska Hall of  
7 Fame Commission created pursuant to section 72-724.

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

11 (a) Select a sculptor to create a statue of Willa Cather to be  
12 placed in the National Statuary Hall and review and approve the plans for  
13 the statue; and

14 (b) Identify a method to obtain necessary funding to pay for all of  
15 the following:

16 (i) The sculptor for designing and carving or casting the statue;

17 (ii) The design and fabrication of the pedestal;

18 (iii) The transportation of the statue and pedestal to the United  
19 States Capitol;

20 (iv) The removal and transportation of the replaced statue;

21 (v) The temporary placement of the new statue in the Rotunda of the  
22 United States Capitol for the unveiling ceremony;

23 (vi) The unveiling ceremony; and

24 (vii) Any other expenses that the committee determines are necessary  
25 to incur.