

Senate Bill 279

By: Senators Anderson of the 43rd, Jones II of the 22nd, Lucas of the 26th, Harbison of the 15th, Jones of the 10th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state
2 flag, seal, and other symbols, so as to provide for placement of a monument to honor the
3 Original 33; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, in 1868, 33 African Americans, the Original 33, were elected to the General
5 Assembly of Georgia: Senators Aaron Alpeoria Bradley, Tunis Campbell, Sr., and George
6 Wallace, and Representatives Thomas M. Allen, Eli Barnes, Thomas Beard, Edwin Belcher,
7 Tunis Campbell, Jr., Malcolm Claiborn, George H. Clower, Abram Colby, John T. Costin,
8 Madison Davis, Monday Floyd, F. H. Fyall, Samuel Gardner, William A. Golden, William
9 Guilford, William Henry Harrison, Ulysses L. Houston, Philip Joiner, George Linder, Robert
10 Lumpkin, Romulus Moore, Peter O'Neal, James Ward Porter, Alfred Richardson, James M.
11 Simms, Abraham Smith, Alexander Stone, Henry McNeal Turner, John Warren, and Samuel
12 Williams; and

13 WHEREAS, these men were some of the first Black state legislators in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, in September of 1868, the Original 33 were expelled from the General
15 Assembly of Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, it is only fitting that the Original 33 be honored and recognized for their
17 pioneering work and suffering for attempting to integrate the General Assembly of Georgia.

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

19 **SECTION 1.**

20 Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state flag, seal,
21 and other symbols, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

22 "ARTICLE 7

23 50-3-115.

24 (a) There shall be placed upon the capitol grounds of the state capitol building or in
25 another prominent place a monument in honor of the Original 33, the Black legislators
26 expelled from the General Assembly following the end of Reconstruction, subject to the
27 availability of private funds for such purpose.

28 (b) Unless public safety concerns warrant postponement, such monument shall be procured
29 and placed as soon as practicable."

30 **SECTION 2.**

31 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.