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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 53
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Fischer and Pizzulli

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SUMMARY

- Designates February 4 as “John Rankin Day.”
- Directs the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board to erect a memorial to John Rankin on the grounds of the capitol.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Designation | John Rankin Day |
| Date | February 4 |
| Other Information | John Rankin was an abolitionist, minister, and educator who contributed to Ohio’s legacy of freedom through his work as an early anti-slavery writer and conductor on the Underground Railroad. ¹ |

Permanent memorial to John Rankin

The bill directs the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board to designate a prominent place on the grounds of Capitol Square to erect a permanent memorial to John Rankin in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Board. The Board is required to designate the location of the memorial before October 1, 2025. Additionally, the Board is directed to work in conjunction with the Ohio History Connection to gather, evaluate, and select proposals for the design of the memorial.

¹ R.C. 5.295.

Public funds will be used to pay for site preparation, utility placement, and other preliminary construction activities associated with the memorial. The planning, designing, and erecting of the memorial will be paid for with private contributions. The Capitol Square Foundation will accept private contributions and deposit those contributions into the John Rankin Memorial Fund.²

HISTORY

| Action | Date |
|------------|----------|
| Introduced | 02-04-25 |

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² Section 2.