

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H1/27/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1194

By: Representative Cavenaugh

By: Senator B. Johnson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT
OF A MONUMENT ON THE STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS IN
RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF THE INTEGRATION OF
HOXIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE
PLACEMENT OF A MONUMENT ON THE STATE
CAPITOL GROUNDS IN RECOGNITION AND
APPRECIATION OF THE INTEGRATION OF HOXIE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. FINDINGS AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT. (a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The first court battle to implement the decision in Brown v. Board of Education, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), was fought in the town of Hoxie, Arkansas, which sparked the first federal support of integration after the decision in Brown, supra, and the first court order overturning state segregation laws;

(2) In the summer of 1955, the Hoxie School Board voluntarily desegregated its schools and fully integrated all school facilities;

(3) The newly formed White Citizens' Council saw the integration as a test for southern resistance to the decision in Brown, supra, and descended on Hoxie with efforts to force the Hoxie School Board to rescind its desegregation;



(4) Despite these efforts, the Hoxie superintendent and the Hoxie School Board stood their ground;

(5) With the help of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Hoxie School Board sought an injunction against segregationist groups, eventually drawing the United States Government's support in a case that nullified state segregation laws;

(6) Segregationist leaders were so furious over their loss in the case that they turned on Governor Orval Faubus in the next primary, forcing him out of his previously moderate stance and setting up the 1957 confrontation at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas;

(7) Life Magazine chronicled the Hoxie integration, which was viewed as a success despite students, the families of students, and school administrators experiencing dynamic challenges during this historic and transformative time; and

(8) The first court battle for school desegregation in Hoxie changed the face of Arkansas public schools.

(b) It is the intent of this act to place a monument on the State Capitol grounds in recognition and appreciation of the historic integration of Hoxie public schools in 1955.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 19-5-1125(e)(2), concerning the Arkansas Capitol Grounds Monument and Memorial Preservation Fund, is amended to read as follows:

(2) Before the expenditure of any moneys from the Arkansas Capitol Grounds Monument and Memorial Preservation Fund for the maintenance, repair, alteration, addition, reconstruction, or upkeep of any kind for a specific monument or memorial areas on State Capitol grounds, if there is a fund dedicated to that specific monument or memorial, the Secretary of State shall utilize the gifts, grants, and donations made to the following funds for the maintenance, repair, alteration, addition, reconstruction, or upkeep of that specific monument or memorial:

- (A) Vietnam ~~Veterans~~² Veterans Monument Fund;
- (B) Arkansas Military War Veterans Monument Fund;
- (C) Ten Commandments Monument Display Act under § 22-3-221;
- (D) Gold Star Family Memorial Monument Fund; ~~and~~

(E) Arkansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial Board under § 22-3-1704; and

(F) Hoxie: The First Stand Memorial Monument Fund.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 11, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

19-5-1160. Hoxie: The First Stand Memorial Monument Fund.

(a) There is established on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a trust fund to be known as the “Hoxie: The First Stand Memorial Monument Fund”.

(b) The fund shall consist of gifts, grants, and donations from individuals and organizations as provided under the Hoxie: The First Stand Memorial Monument Act, § 22-3-224, and other funds as may be provided by law.

(c) The fund shall be used exclusively for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a suitable monument on the State Capitol grounds in recognition and appreciation of the integration of Hoxie public schools in 1955, as provided in the Hoxie: The First Stand Memorial Monument Act, § 22-3-224.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 22, Chapter 3, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

22-3-224. Hoxie: The First Stand Memorial Monument Act.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the “Hoxie: The First Stand Memorial Monument Act”.

(b)(1) The Secretary of State shall permit and arrange for the placement on the State Capitol grounds of a monument commemorating the integration of Hoxie public schools in 1955.

(2) The monument shall be placed on the State Capitol grounds where there are other monuments.

(3)(A) The monument shall be designed and constructed in the manner recommended by Hoxie the First Stand Inc., or in a manner similar to the design recommended by Hoxie the First Stand Inc.

(B) The Secretary of State shall approve the design and site selection for the monument through consultation with the Capitol Arts and Grounds Commission.

(c) The Secretary of State may accept gifts, grants, and donations from individuals and organizations to be deposited as trust funds into the

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Hoxie: The First Stand Memorial Monument Fund.

/s/Cavanaugh

APPROVED: 3/6/25