

HB 801 -- ROSA PARKS OBSERVANCE DAY COMMISSION

SPONSOR: Smith

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Trade and Tourism by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Commerce by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill establishes the Rosa Parks Observance Day Commission within the Office of the Governor. The commission must organize and coordinate activities and events in honor of the annual Rosa Parks Observance Day which celebrates the life of Rosa Parks and raises awareness about her legacy of equality, courage, and justice.

The commission is to consist of nine members appointed by the Governor including, but not limited to, educators, civic and community leaders, and people with a desire to keep Rosa Parks' legacy alive. Members will serve four-year terms except for the first members appointed who will serve specified staggered terms. All members will serve without compensation but will be reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses incurred while performing their official duties. The commission will be funded through donations contributed for the commission. The Office of the Governor will provide administrative support and staff for the effective operation of the commission.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill would honor Rosa Parks and raise awareness of her legacy as a civil rights leader in this country.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Smith.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.