

**Constitution Revision Commission
General Provisions Committee
Proposal Analysis**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the proposal as of the latest date listed below.)

Proposal #: P 37

Relating to: MISCELLEANEOUS, creates new section

Introducer(s): Commissioner Stemberger

Article/Section affected:

Date: November 25, 2017

	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	GP	Pre-meeting
2.	LO	

I. SUMMARY:

The proposal amends Art. X of the Florida Constitution by adding a new section that prohibits state or local governments from naming government buildings, facilities, land or a government administered program after an elected state or local official, until after that official has vacated office.

The proposal also requires that any law or ordinance which names a building, facility, land or program after a state or local elected official not contain provisions on any other subject.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

The Florida Constitution does not address the naming of government buildings, facilities, land, or programs after elected officials, nor does Florida law.

Other States

However, elected officials around the country have buildings named after them that the official aided in procuring funding to build.¹ U.S. Representative Michael McCaul of Texas has previously filed federal legislation entitled “No Monument to Me Act” that:

¹ *Politicians Use Tax \$\$ to Name Buildings after Themselves*, Fox Business, June 30, 2011. <http://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/2011/06/30/politicians-use-tax-to-name-buildings-after-themselves.html> (last visited 11/25/17).

“Prohibits the use of federal funds for any real property, project, or program named for an individual then serving as a Member of Congress (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner) or as President. Excepts: (1) any presidential library; or (2) any project or program commenced, or any real property named, prior to the enactment of this Act.”²

The naming of buildings has earned national media coverage³, with one columnist nicknaming the practice “The Edifice Complex.” The practice happens at the local level as well. For example, a city councilwoman spent \$9,000 of bond money to build an obelisk with her image on it in a city park in her district.⁴

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The proposal prohibits government buildings, facilities, land, and government programs from being named after currently serving state or local elected officials. Additionally, “[a] law or ordinance enacted which names a building, a facility, or a tract of land, or a program after a former elected state or local official may not contain provisions on any other subject.”

C. FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

III. Additional Information:

A. Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the current version and the prior version of the proposal.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

C. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

D. Related Issues:

None.

² Quoting bill summary from H.R. 1826- 13th Congress (2013-2014). Available at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/1826> (last visited 11/25/17).

³ *The Edifice Complex*, Townhall, April 11, 2007. <https://townhall.com/columnists/johnstossel/2007/04/11/the-edifice-complex-n997555> (last visited 11/25/17).

⁴ *Personalized Monuments, Lest we Forget*, The Florida Times-Union, May 25, 2005. http://jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/052505/woo_18824841.shtml#.Wg7_IOSWzcs (last visited 11/25/17)