

**As Reported by the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs  
Committee**

**133rd General Assembly**

**Regular Session  
2019-2020**

**Sub. H. B. No. 155**

**Representatives Schaffer, Rogers**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Romanchuk, Becker, Smith, K., Riedel, Ginter,  
Perales, Miller, A., Manning, G., Weinstein, West, Sheehy**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 149.30 and 155.99 and to enact 1  
section 155.28 of the Revised Code to prohibit a 2  
war relic located on public property or cemetery 3  
association property from being sold, disturbed, 4  
or otherwise disposed of, except under certain 5  
circumstances, and to designate this act as the 6  
"Ohio Veterans' Heritage Protection Act." 7

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 149.30 and 155.99 be amended and 8  
section 155.28 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as 9  
follows: 10

**Sec. 149.30.** The Ohio history connection, chartered by 11  
this state as a corporation not for profit to promote a 12  
knowledge of history and archaeology, especially of Ohio, and 13  
operated continuously in the public interest since 1885, may 14  
perform public functions as prescribed by law. 15

The general assembly may appropriate money to the Ohio 16

history connection each biennium to carry out the public 17  
functions of the Ohio history connection as enumerated in this 18  
section. An appropriation by the general assembly to the Ohio 19  
history connection constitutes an offer to contract with the 20  
Ohio history connection to carry out those public functions for 21  
which appropriations are made. An acceptance by the Ohio history 22  
connection of the appropriated funds constitutes an acceptance 23  
by the Ohio history connection of the offer and is considered an 24  
agreement by the Ohio history connection to perform those 25  
functions in accordance with the terms of the appropriation and 26  
the law and to expend the funds only for the purposes for which 27  
appropriated. The governor may request on behalf of the Ohio 28  
history connection, and the controlling board may release, 29  
additional funds to the Ohio history connection for survey, 30  
salvage, repair, or rehabilitation of an emergency nature for 31  
which funds have not been appropriated, and acceptance by the 32  
Ohio history connection of those funds constitutes an agreement 33  
on the part of the Ohio history connection to expend those funds 34  
only for the purpose for which released by the controlling 35  
board. 36

The Ohio history connection shall faithfully expend and 37  
apply all moneys received from the state to the uses and 38  
purposes directed by law and for necessary administrative 39  
expenses. If the general assembly appropriates money to the Ohio 40  
history connection for grants or subsidies to other entities for 41  
their site-related programs, the Ohio history connection, except 42  
for good cause, shall distribute the money within ninety days of 43  
accepting a grant or subsidy application for the money. 44

The Ohio history connection shall perform the public 45  
function of sending notice by ordinary or certified mail to the 46  
owner of any property at the time it is listed on the national 47

register of historic places. The Ohio history connection shall 48  
accurately record all expenditures of such funds in conformity 49  
with generally accepted accounting principles. 50

The auditor of state shall audit all funds and fiscal 51  
records of the Ohio history connection. 52

The public functions to be performed by the Ohio history 53  
connection shall include all of the following: 54

(A) Creating, supervising, operating, protecting, 55  
maintaining, and promoting for public use a system of state 56  
memorials, titles to which may reside wholly or in part with 57  
this state or wholly or in part with the Ohio history connection 58  
as provided in and in conformity to appropriate acts and 59  
resolves of the general assembly, and leasing for renewable 60  
periods of two years or less, with the advice and consent of the 61  
attorney general and the director of administrative services, 62  
lands and buildings owned by the state which are in the care, 63  
custody, and control of the Ohio history connection, all of 64  
which shall be maintained and kept for public use at reasonable 65  
hours; 66

(B) Making alterations and improvements, marking, and 67  
constructing, reconstructing, protecting, or restoring 68  
structures, earthworks, and monuments in its care, and equipping 69  
such facilities with appropriate educational maintenance 70  
facilities; 71

(C) Serving as the archives administration for the state 72  
and its political subdivisions as provided in sections 149.31 to 73  
149.42 of the Revised Code; 74

(D) Administering a state historical museum, to be the 75  
headquarters of the society and its principal museum and 76

library, which shall be maintained and kept for public use at	77
reasonable hours;	78
(E) Establishing a marking system to identify all	79
designated historic and archaeological sites within the state	80
and marking or causing to be marked historic sites and	81
communities considered by the society to be historically or	82
archaeologically significant;	83
(F) Publishing books, pamphlets, periodicals, and other	84
publications about history, archaeology, and natural science and	85
offering one copy of each regular periodical issue to all public	86
libraries in this state at a reasonable price, which shall not	87
exceed one hundred ten per cent more than the total cost of	88
publication;	89
(G) Engaging in research in history, archaeology, and	90
natural science and providing historical information upon	91
request to all state agencies;	92
(H) Collecting, preserving, and making available by all	93
appropriate means and under approved safeguards all manuscript,	94
print, or near-print library collections and all historical	95
objects, specimens, and artifacts which pertain to the history	96
of Ohio and its people, including the following original	97
documents: Ohio Constitution of 1802; Ohio Constitution of 1851;	98
proposed Ohio Constitution of 1875; design and the letters of	99
patent and assignment of patent for the state flag; S.J.R. 13	100
(1873); S.J.R. 53 (1875); S.J.R. 72 (1875); S.J.R. 50 (1883);	101
H.J.R. 73 (1883); S.J.R. 28 (1885); H.J.R. 67 (1885); S.J.R. 17	102
(1902); S.J.R. 28 (1902); H.J.R. 39 (1902); S.J.R. 23 (1903);	103
H.J.R. 19 (1904); S.J.R. 16 (1905); H.J.R. 41 (1913); H.J.R. 34	104
(1917); petition form (2) (1918); S.J.R. 6 (1921); H.J.R. 5	105
(1923); H.J.R. 40 (1923); H.J.R. 8 (1929); H.J.R. 20 (1929);	106

S.J.R. 4 (1933); petition form (2) (1933); S.J.R. 57 (1936);	107
petition form (1936); H.J.R. 14 (1942); H.J.R. 15 (1944); H.J.R.	108
8 (1944); S.J.R. 6 (1947); petition form (1947); H.J.R. 24	109
(1947); and H.J.R. 48 (1947);	110
(I) Encouraging and promoting the organization and	111
development of county and local historical societies;	112
(J) Providing to Ohio schools such materials as the Ohio	113
history connection may prepare to facilitate the instruction of	114
Ohio history at a reasonable price, which shall not exceed one	115
hundred ten per cent more than the total cost of preparation and	116
delivery;	117
(K) Providing advisory and technical assistance to local	118
societies for the preservation and restoration of historic and	119
archaeological sites;	120
(L) Devising uniform criteria for the designation of	121
historic and archaeological sites throughout the state and	122
advising local historical societies of the criteria and their	123
application;	124
(M) Taking inventory, in cooperation with the Ohio arts	125
council, the Ohio archaeological council, and the archaeological	126
society of Ohio, of significant designated and undesignated	127
state and local sites and keeping an active registry of all	128
designated sites within the state;	129
(N) Contracting with the owners or persons having an	130
interest in designated historic or archaeological sites or	131
property adjacent or contiguous to those sites, or acquiring, by	132
purchase, gift, or devise, easements in those sites or in	133
property adjacent or contiguous to those sites, in order to	134
control or restrict the use of those historic or archaeological	135

sites or adjacent or contiguous property for the purpose of 136  
restoring or preserving the historical or archaeological 137  
significance or educational value of those sites; 138

(O) Constructing a monument honoring Governor James A. 139  
Rhodes, which shall stand on the northeast quadrant of the 140  
grounds surrounding the capitol building. The monument shall be 141  
constructed with private funds donated to the Ohio history 142  
connection and designated for this purpose. No public funds 143  
shall be expended to construct this monument. The department of 144  
administrative services shall cooperate with the Ohio history 145  
connection in carrying out this function and shall maintain the 146  
monument in a manner compatible with the grounds of the capitol 147  
building. 148

(P) Commissioning a portrait of each departing governor, 149  
which shall be displayed in the capitol building. The Ohio 150  
history connection may accept private contributions designated 151  
for this purpose and, at the discretion of its board of 152  
trustees, also may apply for the same purpose funds appropriated 153  
by the general assembly to the Ohio history connection pursuant 154  
to this section. 155

(Q) Submitting an annual report of its activities, 156  
programs, and operations to the governor within two months after 157  
the close of each fiscal year of the state. 158

The Ohio history connection, with the help of local 159  
historical societies, may compile and maintain a registry of war 160  
relics, as defined in section 155.28 of the Revised Code, that 161  
are located on public property or on the property of a cemetery 162  
association. 163

The Ohio history connection shall not sell, mortgage, 164

transfer, or dispose of historical or archaeological sites to 165  
which it has title and in which the state has monetary interest 166  
except by action of the general assembly. 167

In consideration of the public functions performed by the 168  
Ohio history connection for the state, employees of the Ohio 169  
history connection shall be considered public employees within 170  
the meaning of section 145.01 of the Revised Code. 171

Sec. 155.28. (A) As used in this section: 172

"Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, 173  
association, corporation, governmental agency, or the state or a 174  
political subdivision of the state. 175

"Public property" means property owned or leased by the 176  
state or a political subdivision of the state. 177

"War" means the French and Indian war, American 178  
revolution, war of 1812, United States-Mexican war, American 179  
civil war 1861-1865, Spanish-American war, the Mexican border 180  
period, World War I, World War II, Korean conflict, Vietnam era, 181  
operation urgent fury (Grenada), operation El Dorado Canyon 182  
(Libya), operation just cause (Panama), operation desert 183  
shield/desert storm (Persian Gulf War I), operation enduring 184  
freedom (Afghanistan), operation Iraqi freedom (Persian Gulf War 185  
II), any subsequent declaration of war by the congress of the 186  
United States, or any subsequent armed conflict in which the 187  
United States is engaged. 188

"War relic" means a cannon or other artillery from the era 189  
of a war, or a statue, monument, memorial, or plaque that has 190  
been erected for, or named or dedicated in honor of, a war or an 191  
individual's or group of individuals' service in a war. 192

(B) Except as provided in division (C) of this section: 193

(1) No war relic that is located on public property or on the property of a cemetery association may be sold or otherwise disposed of by any person. 194  
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(2) No person may purchase a war relic in violation of this section. 197  
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(3) No war relic that is located on public property or on the property of a cemetery association may be destroyed, relocated, removed, altered, or otherwise disturbed by any person, except that the person having responsibility for maintaining the war relic may temporarily relocate, remove, alter, or otherwise disturb the war relic to preserve, care for, repair, or restore it, to place it in a temporary public display, or to use it in re-enactments of a war. 199  
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(C) A governmental agency, the state, a political subdivision, or a cemetery association that wishes to dispossess a war relic that is located on public property or on the property of a cemetery association may give the war relic to the federal government. If the federal government does not accept the war relic, it shall be given to the Ohio history connection. If the Ohio history connection does not accept the war relic, it shall be given to the sons of union veterans of the civil war, department of Ohio, or, if the war relic is not of the civil war era, it shall be given to any congressionally chartered veterans' service organization at the discretion of the Ohio history connection. 207  
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(D) This section does not apply to the state or a political subdivision of the state if it can clearly prove ownership, by written documentation, of a war relic. A governmental agency, the state, or a political subdivision of the state shall not be fined under division (E) of section 219  
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<u>155.99 of the Revised Code for a violation.</u>	224
<b>Sec. 155.99.</b> (A) Whoever violates division (B) of section 155.04 of the Revised Code is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.	225 226
(B) Whoever violates section 155.05 of the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.	227 228
<u>(C) Whoever violates division (B) (1) of section 155.28 of the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor. Notwithstanding sections 2929.21 to 2929.28 of the Revised Code, the court shall order the offender to pay any money received from selling or otherwise disposing of a war relic to united service organizations, inc., (USO), a corporation federally chartered under 36 U.S.C. 220101.</u>	229 230 231 232 233 234 235
<u>(D) Whoever violates division (B) (2) of section 155.28 of the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor. Notwithstanding sections 2929.21 to 2929.28 of the Revised Code, the court may order the offender to pay a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars to united service organizations, inc., (USO), a corporation federally chartered under 36 U.S.C. 220101, and the court shall order the offender to return the war relic to the seller.</u>	236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243
<u>(E) Whoever violates division (B) (3) of section 155.28 of the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor. Notwithstanding sections 2929.21 to 2929.28 of the Revised Code, the court shall institute a right to cure period of ninety days to restore the war relic to its prior condition and location. Upon the expiration of the right to cure period, the court may order an offender who has not cured the violation to pay a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars to united service organizations, inc., (USO), a corporation federally chartered under 36 U.S.C.</u>	244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252

<u>220101.</u>	253
<b>Section 2.</b> That existing sections 149.30 and 155.99 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	254 255
<b>Section 3.</b> This act is the Ohio Veterans' Heritage Protection Act.	256 257