

**Constitution Revision Commission  
Local Government 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: Article X, New Section

Date: December 11, 2017

	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>GP</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	<u>LO</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>

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**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.<sup>1</sup> U.S. Representative Michael McCaul of Texas has previously filed federal legislation entitled “No Monument to Me Act” that:

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<sup>1</sup> *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.”<sup>2</sup>

The naming of buildings has earned national media coverage<sup>3</sup>, 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.<sup>4</sup>

**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.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> *Personalized Monuments, Lest we Forget*, The Florida Times-Union, May 25, 2005. [http://jacksonville.com/tuonline/stories/052505/woo\\_18824841.shtml#.Wg7\\_IOSWzcs](http://jacksonville.com/tuonline/stories/052505/woo_18824841.shtml#.Wg7_IOSWzcs) (last visited 11/25/17)