

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** PCB ANRS 12-06 Judah P. Benjamin Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historical Site Advisory Council

**SPONSOR(S):** Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee

**TIED BILLS:** None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
Orig. Comm.: Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee		Kaiser	Blalock

### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Judah P. Benjamin Confederate Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historic State Park (park) serves as a memorial to a way of life and an economic system that existed before the Civil War. Gamble Mansion is the only surviving antebellum plantation house in south Florida. The mansion was the home of Major Robert Gamble and the headquarters of an extensive sugar plantation of over 3,500 acres. In May of 1865, after the fall of the Confederacy, Confederate Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin took refuge in the house until his safe passage to England could be secured. In 1925, the mansion and 16 acres were saved by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and donated to the state. Today, it is furnished in the style of a successful mid-19<sup>th</sup> century plantation.

Under current law, there is created the Judah P. Benjamin Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historical Site Advisory Council (advisory council), that is composed of five members that are citizens and residents of Manatee County. Three of the members must be appointed from the membership of the Judah P. Benjamin Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. One member must be appointed from the membership of the Manatee County Historical Commission, and one member must be appointed at large from Manatee County. Members of the advisory council serve without compensation. It is the duty of the advisory council to advise the Division of Recreation and Parks (division) of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in the operation, restoration, development, and preservation of the Judah P. Benjamin Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historical Site. According to the DEP, the advisory council only meets on average once a year and does not regularly advise the division. In addition, the park works more closely with its citizen support organization, the Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the Division of Historical Resources in order to get input on the operation, restoration, development, and preservation of the park.

The bill repeals the current law creating the Judah P. Benjamin Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historical Site Advisory Council.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local government.

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

##### **Present Situation**

##### Judah P. Benjamin Confederate Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historical Site

The Judah P. Benjamin Confederate Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historic State Park (park) serves as a memorial to a way of life and an economic system that existed before the Civil War. Gamble Mansion is the only surviving antebellum plantation house in south Florida. The mansion was the home of Major Robert Gamble and the headquarters of an extensive sugar plantation of over 3,500 acres. In May of 1865, after the fall of the Confederacy, Confederate Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin took refuge in the house until his safe passage to England could be secured. In 1925, the mansion and 16 acres were saved by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and donated to the state. Today, it is furnished in the style of a successful mid-19<sup>th</sup> century plantation. Today, it is furnished in the style of a successful mid-19th century plantation.

##### Judah P. Benjamin Confederate Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historical Site Advisory Council

Section 258.155, F.S., provides for the Judah P. Benjamin Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historical Site Advisory Council (advisory council), to be created, and be composed of five members that are citizens and residents of Manatee County. The members of the advisory council must be appointed by the Governor for 4-year staggered terms. Initially, the Governor appointed two members for 4-year terms, one member to a 3-year term, and two members for 2-year terms. Three of the members must be appointed from the membership of the Judah P. Benjamin Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. One member must be appointed from the membership of the Manatee County Historical Commission, and one member must be appointed at large from Manatee County. Members of the advisory council serve without compensation. Section 258.155, F.S., also states it is the duty of the advisory council to advise the Division of Recreation and Parks (division) of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in the operation, restoration, development, and preservation of the Judah P. Benjamin Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historical Site.

According to the DEP, the advisory council only meets on average once a year and does not regularly advise the division. In addition, the park works more closely with its citizen support organization, the Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the Division of Historical Resources in order to get input on the operation, restoration, development, and preservation of the park.

##### **Effect of Proposed Changes**

The bill repeals s. 258.155, F.S., creating the Judah P. Benjamin Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historical Site Advisory Council.

#### B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

**Section 1:** Repeals s. 258.155, F.S., creating the Judah P. Benjamin Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historical Site Advisory Council.

**Section 2:** Provides an effective date of July 1, 2012.

## II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

### B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

### C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None

### D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None

## III. COMMENTS

### A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. The bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None

### B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None

### C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None

## IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None