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By: **Delegates Busch and Haynes**

Introduced and read first time: March 7, 2005

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Official Museum and Library of Maryland History - The Maryland Historical**  
3 **Society**

4 FOR the purpose of designating the Maryland Historical Society as the official  
5 Museum and Library of Maryland History; and generally relating to the  
6 designation of the official Museum and Library of Maryland History.

7 BY adding to

8 Article - State Government

9 Section 13-601 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 6. Official Museum and  
10 Library of Maryland History"

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2004 Replacement Volume)

13 **Preamble**

14 WHEREAS, The Maryland Historical Society was chartered in 1844 and is the  
15 oldest historical and chartered cultural organization in the State; and

16 WHEREAS, The Maryland Historical Society houses over seven million  
17 manuscripts, books, documents, and artifacts relating to the history of Maryland,  
18 making it one of the greatest collections of Americana anywhere; and

19 WHEREAS, The Maryland Historical Society serves more than 375,000  
20 individuals worldwide each year through public programs, exhibitions, research  
21 facilities, and on-line services; and

22 WHEREAS, The Maryland Historical Society provides direct educational  
23 experiences to 180,000 Marylanders annually; and

24 WHEREAS, The Maryland Historical Society is the leading historical resource  
25 in Maryland and is involved in every aspect of the historical and cultural life of the  
26 State, including such accomplishments as: convening a semi-annual gathering of  
27 county historical societies; founding the Maryland Association of History Museums;  
28 being the catalyst for the Governor's Task Force on the Preservation and

1 Enhancement of Maryland's Heritage Resources Management Plan; and chairing the  
2 management plan for the Baltimore City Heritage Area; and

3 WHEREAS, The Maryland Historical Society is a major publisher of works on  
4 Maryland history and culture and has been the primary publisher of research on  
5 Maryland history for 100 years through the Maryland Historical Magazine, which is  
6 widely viewed as the publication of record on Maryland history; and

7 WHEREAS, The Maryland Historical Society has collections in Baltimore and  
8 has more than 375 artifacts on loan throughout the State and the nation. The society  
9 also serves as the historical and cultural ambassador of Maryland with exhibits like  
10 "Baltimore Album Quilts" which traveled to five sites throughout Japan; and

11 WHEREAS, The Maryland Historical Society is nationally recognized as the  
12 primary historical resource in Maryland and as a significant repository on American  
13 history and culture; and

14 WHEREAS, The Maryland Historical Society has taken a major role in  
15 protecting the patrimony of the United States and promoting the value of history. The  
16 Maryland Historical Society has played a leading role in many national organizations  
17 such as the American Association for State and Local History, the American  
18 Association of Museums, the Heritage Preservation, and the National Institute for  
19 Conservation; now, therefore,

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article - State Government**

23 **SUBTITLE 6. OFFICIAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY OF MARYLAND HISTORY.**

24 13-601.

25 THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS RECOGNIZED AS THE OFFICIAL  
26 MUSEUM AND LIBRARY OF MARYLAND HISTORY.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 October 1, 2005.