

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1404 (Delegate Madaleno, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations

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Commission on Commemorating the Anniversaries of the War of 1812 and the  
Civil War

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This bill establishes a Commission on Commemorating the Anniversaries of the War of 1812 and the Civil War. The Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) must provide staff for the commission. A report with findings and recommendations is due to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2006 and each subsequent December 31.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005 and terminates on June 30, 2014.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. Any expense reimbursements for commission members and staffing costs for DBED and DHCD are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The commission must (1) assemble an inventory of sites in Maryland that are significant to the War of 1812 and the Civil War; (2) develop a plan for commemorating the events that occurred in Maryland during the War of 1812 and the

Civil War; (3) develop a strategy to encourage tourism related to these commemorations; (4) make recommendations concerning facility development and repair; (5) coordinate with the federal government, local governments, and neighboring jurisdictions regarding the development of plans commemorating events; and (6) if appropriate, receive testimony from and consult with individuals who are knowledgeable regarding the issues of interest to the commission.

**Current Law:** A similar commission has not been established by the legislature.

**Background:** The Maryland Office of Tourism has already prepared numerous informational brochures and publications that list historical sites in Maryland that are significant to the War of 1812 and the Civil War, including an in-depth travel guide to Civil War people and places and a survey of War of 1812 sites. In addition, the federal government has established the National Commission for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 to develop programs and events commemorating this national event.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Business and Economic Development, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 18, 2005  
ncs/hlb

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