

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2011 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1253 (Chair, Environmental Matters Committee)(By Request -  
 Departmental - Community Initiative)

Environmental Matters Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Commission on African American History and Culture - Members and Duties**

This departmental bill increases the number of members of the Commission on African American History and Culture from 9 to 21. The terms of the members are staggered as specified by the bill. In addition, the bill repeals commission duties related to surveying historic sites and coordinating the State’s annual observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Finally, the bill authorizes the commission to receive and administer State money and broadens the scope of activities for which the commission may receive money to include educational activities or projects that further understanding of African American history and culture.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$9,200 in FY 2012 due to the expansion of the commission’s membership and duties. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	9,200	12,300	12,400	12,600	12,700
Net Effect	(\$9,200)	(\$12,300)	(\$12,400)	(\$12,600)	(\$12,700)

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** The Commission on African American History and Culture was first established, under a different name, by Chapter 435 of 1969. The commission is required to:

- initiate, direct, and coordinate projects that further the understanding of African American history and culture;
- survey historic buildings, sites, artifacts, archives, and repositories, and publish and disseminate the results;
- plan, coordinate, and implement the State's annual official observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday;
- receive and administer any available federal or private money to plan and execute commemorative and educational activities in connection with the observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday;
- operate the Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis to house and display photographs, objects, oral history tapes, artifacts, and other materials of African American historic and cultural significance;
- locate, preserve, and disseminate to the public information about significant buildings and sites relating to African American history and culture; and
- publish an annual report and any other material that the commission considers necessary.

**Background:** The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives advises that the expanded commission will be able to offer increased assistance with the African American Heritage Preservation Grant, which provides support for the acquisition, construction, and capital improvement of sites of historical and cultural significance to the African American experience in Maryland. The grant program is supported through an annual appropriation from the General Assembly and is administered jointly by the commission and the Maryland Historical Trust.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures increase by \$9,150 in fiscal 2012, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2011 effective date. The estimate reflects the expansion of the commission's membership and duties, and includes costs associated with travel, supplies, and contractual services. Future year expenditures reflect 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Governor's Office, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 15, 2011  
ncs/hlb

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## ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture –  
New Members and Duties

BILL NUMBER: HB 1253

PREPARED BY: Community Initiatives

### PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL  
BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL  
BUSINESSES

### PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.