

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Joint Resolution 5 (Delegates Wilson and Branch)
Rules and Executive Nominations

Changing the Name of the Washington, D.C., Professional Football Team

This joint resolution urges the owners of the Washington, DC, professional football franchise to change the name of the football team to a name that is not offensive to Native Americans or any other group.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not impact State government operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: The Washington Redskins – a National Football League (NFL) franchise – originated as the Boston Braves in 1932. In 1933, the team name was changed to the Boston Redskins. In 1937, the team moved to the District of Columbia. Since 1997, the team has played at FedEx Field (formerly known as Jack Kent Cooke Stadium) in Landover, Maryland. The team trains at the Bon Secours Washington Redskins Training Center in Richmond, Virginia.

The team's name has been a source of increasing controversy as opponents of the name consider it to be insensitive and offensive to Native Americans. Members of the U.S. Congress and the District of Columbia City Council have also urged a name change. In February 2014, two members of Congress sent a letter to the NFL Commissioner

urging the league to support a name change. In November 2013, the District of Columbia City Council passed a resolution urging a name change.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Washington Redskins, Associated Press, *The Washington Post*, ABC7/WJLA, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/hlb

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