

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

House Bill 644 (Delegate Ivey, *et al.*)
 Health and Government Operations

Commission on 380 Years of African American History in Maryland

This bill establishes a Commission on African American History in Maryland. The commission must (1) study the history of African Americans in Maryland, beginning when the first slaves were brought to Maryland in 1642; (2) produce a written report of African American history in Maryland; and (3) submit its written report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2022. The commission may employ staff in accordance with an appropriation in the State budget. A member of the commission may not receive compensation, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations. **The bill terminates September 30, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$21,500 in FY 2020, assuming the commission hires a part-time contractual staff person. Future year expenditures reflect annualization, elimination of one-time costs, and elimination of the contractual position on December 1, 2022. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	21,500	20,800	21,500	9,300	0
Net Effect	(\$21,500)	(\$20,800)	(\$21,500)	(\$9,300)	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Commission on African American History and Culture, which is housed within the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives, is responsible for (1) initiating, directing, and coordinating projects that further the understanding of African American history and culture; (2) leveraging federal, State, and/or private funds to plan and implement projects or educational activities that advance understanding of African American history and culture; (3) operating the Banneker-Douglas Museum in Annapolis to house and display materials of African American historic and cultural significance; (4) locating, preserving, and disseminating information about buildings and sites significant to African American history and culture; and (5) publishing an annual report.

The Maryland State Archives (MSA) is charged with collecting public and private records and other information relevant to the history of Maryland and encouraging research into the history of the State. MSA’s Legacy of Slavery in Maryland program aims to expand and promote research on the history and impact of slavery in the State and the many contributions of enslaved African Americans to the State’s history.

State Expenditures: Assuming that the commission hires one half-time contractual staff person to coordinate commission activities, provide research assistance, and prepare the required report, general fund expenditures increase by an estimated \$21,523 in fiscal 2020, which accounts for the bill’s October 1, 2019 effective date. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses. However, to the extent that relevant entities are able to support the commission’s activities, contractual expenditures may not be necessary.

Contractual Position	0.5
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$16,398
Operating Expenses	<u>5,125</u>
Total FY 2020 State Expenditures	\$21,523

Fiscal 2021 through 2023 expenditures reflect a full salary with annual increases and employee turnover; ongoing operating expenses; and termination of the contractual position on December 1, 2022, following completion of the required report.

This estimate does not include any health insurance costs that could be incurred for specified contractual employees under the State’s implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

For the purposes of this fiscal and policy note, it is assumed that travel expense reimbursements for commission members are minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Budget and Management; Maryland State Archives; Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture; Department of Legislative Services

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sb/lgc

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