

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1364

(Delegate Crosby)

Rules and Executive Nominations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission

This bill establishes the Historic St. Mary’s City Fort to 400 Commission to plan, produce, and facilitate commemoration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Maryland, which takes place in 2034. Commission members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses. The Division of Tourism, Film, and the Arts in the Department of Commerce must provide staff for the commission, assisted by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and the Maryland State Archives (MSA). By September 1, 2022, the commission must submit a plan of action for the commemoration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Maryland to the Governor and the General Assembly. **The bill terminates September 30, 2035.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$107,200 in FY 2022 for contractual personnel to staff the commission and prepare the plan of action; future years reflect termination of the contractual positions in FY 2024, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	107,200	117,600	30,400	-	-
Net Effect	(\$107,200)	(\$117,600)	(\$30,400)	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: Any potential impact on local jurisdiction finances occurs beyond the five-year timeframe covered by this analysis.

Small Business Effect: Any impact on small businesses occurs beyond the five-year timeframe covered by this analysis.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The commission comprises two members of the Senate; two members of the House of Delegates; the Secretaries of Budget and Management, Commerce, Natural Resources, Planning, and Transportation (or their designees); representatives from the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, the Historic St. Mary's City Commission, and the Maryland Rediscovery 400 Initiative; and five members with relevant interest or expertise appointed by the Governor. To the extent practicable, the membership of the commission and any advisory committees established by the commission must be representative of the diverse communities and regions within the State. The Governor must designate the chair of and fill any vacancy on the commission.

The commission must:

- coordinate the planning and implementation of activities and events to commemorate the four-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Maryland;
- promote the identification, documentation, and preservation of historical and cultural resources related to the founding of Maryland;
- assist in protecting, improving, and developing existing educational and interpretive institutions, sites, and museums in promoting the four-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Maryland;
- ensure development of a model social studies curriculum on the founding of Maryland;
- promote nationally and internationally the commemoration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Maryland;
- ensure that commemorative activities, events, and products provide lasting value and public benefits beyond the celebration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Maryland;
- secure support and financial resources to implement events and activities planned and assisted by the commission;
- provide leadership for and coordinate economic development opportunities in and around St. Mary's City to promote the region for future generations; and
- perform other actions necessary to carry out the purposes of the commission.

The chair of the commission must establish specified advisory committees and appoint advisory committee members who broadly represent public and private interests. Advisory committee members serve at the pleasure of the chair.

The commission must meet at least twice each year and adopt procedures for the transaction of business. The commission may establish a nonprofit organization to receive funds for the commission.

By November 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the commission must submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly that includes (1) an update on the plan of action; (2) implementation timetables and benchmarks; and (3) recommendations for legislative, administrative, and other actions the commission deems necessary to further its mission.

Current Law: There is no specifically relevant current law in statute.

State Fiscal Effect: Commerce advises that the commission established under the bill is similar to the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, which was established by executive orders in 2007 and 2010, and staffed by the department. Two full-time employees staffed the commission for a period of five years. MHT (in the Maryland Department of Planning) and MSA can assist the commission with existing resources.

While the Department of Legislative Services concurs that two positions are necessary to support the significant responsibilities of the commission, it is unlikely that permanent staff is needed for a full 13 years prior to the commemoration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Maryland, which will not take place until 2034. Contractual staff are likely sufficient to assist the commission with its initial meetings and preparation and submission of the commission's plan of action.

Thus, Commerce general fund expenditures increase by \$107,195 in fiscal 2022, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2021 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring two contractual staff to coordinate the initial meetings of the commission and prepare and submit the commission's plan of action by October 1, 2022. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Contractual Positions	2.0
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$96,032
Operating Expenses	<u>11,163</u>
Total FY 2022 State Expenditures	\$107,195

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.

Future year expenditures reflect full salaries with annual increases and employee turnover and ongoing operating expenses, and assume termination of the contractual positions after

two years. General fund expenditures likely continue in future years depending on the content of the commission's plan of action.

This analysis does not include any expenditures for commission activities as they will be determined based on the commission's plan of action, nor any impact of the actual commemoration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Maryland as it occurs beyond the five-year timeframe of this analysis.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 946 (Senator Bailey, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Department of Commerce; St. Mary's County; Maryland Department of Planning; Maryland State Archives; Department of Legislative Services

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