

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 448

(Senator Muse, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Health and Government Operations

Study on African American Civil War Soldiers in Maryland

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA), in coordination with specified State entities and nonprofit organizations, to (1) study the history of African American Civil War soldiers who fought for the Union Army in Maryland, including muster rolls, locations of services, and all distinguished honors and recognitions awarded and (2) make findings and recommendations regarding the funding, design, construction, and location of one or more appropriate memorials dedicated to the African American Civil War soldiers in Maryland. By December 1, 2024, MDVA must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024, and terminates June 30, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$86,000 only in FY 2025 for contractual support to complete the required report. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	86,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$86,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$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:

Commission on African American History and Culture

The Commission on African American History and Culture, among its other powers and duties, must 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. The commission may seek money from the federal government, foundations, and private sources in addition to State financing. It may accept gifts, grants, donations, bequests, or endowments for any of its purposes. The 2021 *Joint Chairmen's Report*, among other things, required the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) and the commission to produce [a report](#) on historic African American cemeteries.

Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments

Established by executive order and administered by MDP, the Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments must undertake an inventory of Maryland military monuments, as specified. The commission must make a determination, based on historical significance, design, financial need, and physical condition, as to which monument must receive assistance with the cost of restoration. The commission must procure sufficient funds for the restoration of the monuments, including contributions secured from grants and fundraising efforts, and must prepare education and tourism materials for public distribution.

State Expenditures: MDVA advises it is unable to absorb additional duties and has determined that one temporary contractual staff member is needed to produce the report. Given the limited timeframe for MDVA to produce its report and the intricacy of the information that must be included in the report, the Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Thus, general fund expenditures increase by \$85,997 in fiscal 2025, which accounts for the bill's July 1, 2024 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of MDVA hiring one contractual study coordinator to produce the mandatory report. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and operating expenses.

Contractual Position	1.0
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$78,471
Operating Expenses	<u>7,526</u>
Total FY 2025 State Expenditures	\$85,997

This estimate assumes that the contractual position terminates June 30, 2025, concurrent with the termination of the bill.

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.

The State Archives, MDP, the Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments, and the Commission on African American History and Culture can assist MDVA in producing the report with existing resources.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 133 (Delegate Bouchat, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

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

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