

Honorable Senators

I oppose HB0566.

I am against establishing a Commission to locate real property bearing Confederate names.

If you have to spend between \$80,000 and \$100,000 per year from 2026 through 2032 to locate these properties, the public must not be finding them that offensive. One would think that if citizens were so offended they would already be submitting the names of these buildings to their representatives. Why should it take 7 years to locate them?

I find it interesting that those who allegedly find anything related to the Confederacy to be so offensive that they continue to live in Maryland, a state that allowed slavery, or will touch money that has the pictures of slave owners on them (George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Andrew Jackson). Even the American flag should be repugnant to them since it flew over ships that brought slaves into this country.

With so many problems facing this state, why are you wasting as much as \$560,000 to find properties that many probably have never given a second thought about until pointed out by this committee.

What happens in 2033 when this commission has identified all the offensive properties? Which offensive group will be targeted next?

Perhaps the commission should be tasked with finding properties, statues, and paintings of prominent Democrats that supported slavery prior to the Civil War, or were linked to the Ku Klux Klan like Senator Byrd, or those that supported separate but equal segregation, or fought against civil rights legislation.

I believe we even have a current President who fought against the integration of schools while he was a young politician in Delaware. Based on the premise of this legislation, stating his name, or seeing his name in print should be just as offensive as seeing the Confederate names on some of our buildings.

Quit wasting your time and our money on this issue.

Please vote against HB0556

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