

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
 Revised

Senate Bill 854 (Senator Blount. *et al.*)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Commission to Coordinate the Study, Commemoration, and Impact of Slavery’s History and Legacy in Maryland

This bill establishes an 11-member Commission to Coordinate the Study, Commemoration, and Impact of Slavery’s History and Legacy in Maryland. The commission is to network and work with museums, cultural organizations, and grass-roots organizations to catalog, commemorate, preserve, and present the history of slavery in Maryland. The commission must identify and participate in the preservation of historical sites and work with private and public tourist agencies to ensure that there is a fair allocation of resources for African American historical sites. The commission will also keep the State informed of current research regarding the lingering psychological, sociological, and economic impacts of slavery and its legacy, including its impact on crime and crime control. The Maryland Historical Trust and the State Archives will provide staffing for the commission.

The bill is effective July 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by \$158,000 in FY 2001. Out-year expenditures reflect ongoing operating expenses and an increased need for electronic and paper storage services. This estimates does not include any potential costs for preservation of historical sites.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	\$158,000	\$178,200	\$201,300	\$214,200	\$229,500
Net Effect	(\$158,000)	(\$178,200)	(\$201,300)	(\$214,200)	(\$229,500)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Background: Chapter 718 of 1998 established a Task Force to Study the History and Legacy of Slavery. The task force's authority expired on December 31, 1999, and, as required, it submitted a report to the Governor and the General Assembly. In its report, the task force strongly urged that a cross-agency commission be established to continue investigating and preserving the history and legacy of Maryland's slave heritage.

State Fiscal Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$158,000 in fiscal 2001, which accounts for the bill's July 1, 2000 effective date. There are two components to this figure; \$85,000 is attributable to the increase in expenditures for the State Archives and \$63,000 is attributable to the Maryland Historical Trust. The State Archives estimate reflects the cost of hiring an administrator to oversee the storage and use of the accumulating history on slavery in Maryland. The Historical Trust estimate reflects the cost of an administrator to provide the monitoring and coordinating services the bill requires. Both estimates include salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, ongoing operating expenses, and the regular use of interns.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$81,200
Interns and Storage Services	37,900
Operating Expenses	<u>38,900</u>
Total FY 2001 State Expenditures	\$158,000

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with 4.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

The bill also requires the commission to monitor the ongoing preservation of historical sites related to slavery and promote research in this field but does not require the commission to fund such activities.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Secretary of State, Maryland State Archives, *The Task Force to Study the History and Legacy of Slavery in Maryland Report*, Department of Legislative Services

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