

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 492 (Delegate Amedori, *et al.*)
 Health and Government Operations

State Government - Plaque Commemorating the Bataan Death March

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to place at the Maryland State House a plaque commemorating the American and Filipino soldiers forced to participate in the Bataan Death March of World War II.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by \$2,100 in FY 2004 to install the plaque at the Maryland State House. Revenues would not be affected.

| (in dollars) | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | FY 2006 | FY 2007 | FY 2008 |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Revenues | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| GF Expenditure | 2,100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Effect | (\$2,100) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: None applicable.

Background: The Bataan Death March occurred in April 1942 during World War II, when approximately 78,000 American and Filipino soldiers were ordered to surrender by the Japanese military and forced to march for ten days without food or water. Of the original 78,000 soldiers, it is estimated that 12,000 soldiers were United States citizens.

It is estimated that 32,000 soldiers died during the march with an estimated 24,000 perishing during the march, and an estimated 8,000 perishing in the camps after the march. Official records were burned, buried, or lost; consequently it is difficult to determine the exact number of persons who perished. However, military officials estimate that 5,200 Americans lost their lives. Various events have taken place in the United States to commemorate the Bataan Death March, but no statewide sponsored event has taken place in Maryland, and no monument commemorates those lost in the march.

The Department of Veterans Affairs currently operates three veterans' memorials and monuments commemorating Maryland veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II, the Korean conflict, and the Vietnam era. The Department of Veterans Affairs advises that the location and installation of the plaque would be coordinated with and approved by the Maryland Department of General Services.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill was introduced in the 2002 session as HB 237. The bill passed both Houses, but was vetoed by the Governor.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2003
mdf/hlb

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