

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Joint Resolution 3 (Delegate Kelly, *et al.*)

Rules and Executive Nominations

Changing the Name of Ravens' Stadium to "Johnny Unitas Stadium"

This joint resolution urges the owner of the Ravens' Stadium to rename the stadium Johnny Unitas Stadium.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill pertains to private sector activities.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The naming rights to the Ravens' Stadium belong to the owner of the Baltimore Ravens football team.

Background: Johnny Unitas was the quarterback for the Baltimore Colts and played for them for 17 years. He retired in 1974 after one year with the San Diego Chargers. Unitas' record includes the most pass attempts (5,186), most completions (2,830), most total yards gained passing (40,239), most touchdowns (290), and most consecutive games throwing touchdown passes (47). He led the Colts to one Super Bowl victory and three National Football League championships, and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1979. In 2000, he was named "Greatest Player in the First 50 Years of Pro Football." Unitas died at the age of 69 on September 11, 2002.

The Maryland Stadium Authority granted stadium naming rights to the team in exchange for the right to receive accelerated reimbursement for the cost of building the stadium payment (\$24 million over 30 years, plus an additional payment of \$10 million). PSINet bought the naming rights for \$105 million over 20 years; however, the technology firm filed bankruptcy in 2001 and the Ravens purchased its name from the company.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Stadium Authority, Unitas Management Company, Department of Legislative Services

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