

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 393 (Senator Miller, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Government - Senate Building Trust

This bill establishes a four-member Senate Building Trust: the President of the Senate, the State Treasurer or the Treasurer's designee, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the Senate. The trust is responsible for any needed maintenance, restoration, and preservation of the James Senate Office Building and the Miller Senate Building as well as the grounds and any other building within that complex. The trust may accept a gift or loan of money or property in connection with carrying out its duties; it must approve or disapprove and supervise any proposed repair, improvement, or other change to the buildings within the Senate building complex, including any change to the furnishings, fixtures, artwork, and other memorabilia, and any proposed landscaping of the buildings' grounds. The trust must retain a consultant with the professional experience needed to maintain and restore, as necessary, the Senate buildings within the complex in a way that befits their history and use. The consultant is entitled to the compensation provided in the State budget.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The impact of the bill is small enough that it could be absorbed within the Senate's existing budget. It is anticipated that in the out-years, costs associated with the trust would be funded with private donations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There is a State House Trust which consists of four ex-officio members: (1) the Governor; (2) the President of the Senate; (3) the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and (4) the Chairman (or the chairman's designee) of the Maryland Historical Trust. Three associate members may also be appointed by the members of the trust. Duties of the trust include restoration and preservation of the State House, supervision of repairs, improvements, landscaping, or any other changes to the buildings or grounds within State Circle. State law authorizes the trust to retain as a consultant an architect who must be registered by the State Board of Architects.

State law gives the Department of General Services (DGS) jurisdiction over the operation, maintenance, and protection of the buildings and grounds within the Annapolis complex.

State Fiscal Effect: Costs associated with performing the duties of the trust under the bill which include repairs, improvements, and restoration of the Senate building complex could be absorbed within the existing budget of the Office of the President of the Senate. These functions are currently being financed and performed by the office. The office expects to raise \$30,000 in private donations in fiscal 2005 which would be transferred to the trust should the bill be enacted. The office anticipates that private donations would increase considerably in future years, thus any operational expenses of the trust, including the cost of retaining a consultant, would be funded entirely with private funds.

Additional Comments: DGS is responsible for routine maintenance and upkeep of the buildings and grounds of the entire Annapolis complex, including the State House complex, which maintains a State House Trust similar to the trust contemplated in the bill. No provisions in the bill remove DGS's responsibilities in this regard, thus it is assumed that DGS would retain its current maintenance duties as outlined in State law.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of General Services, Maryland General Assembly, (Office of the President of the Senate), Department of Legislative Services

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