

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 331

(Senator Miller, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Rules and Executive Nominations

State Government - Senate Building Trust

This bill establishes a Senate Building Trust responsible for the 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.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements 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

Bill Summary: The voting members of the trust are the President of the Senate, the State Treasurer or the Treasurer's designee, and the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Senate. The Secretary of General Services, the State Archivist, and the Director of the Maryland Historical Trust serve as nonvoting advisor members.

The trust may accept a gift or loan of money or property in connection with carrying out its duties and it must disapprove or approve and supervise any proposed improvement or other change to the buildings within the Senate building complex.

The trust must retain a consultant with the professional experience needed to make recommendations to the trust regarding restoration, as necessary, to the Senate buildings within the complex in a way that befits their history and use. The Department of General Services is responsible for ensuring that any resulting appropriate maintenance and repair takes place. Any maintenance, repair, or improvement must be conducted in accordance with General Services' policies and standards.

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.

Background: 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.

State Fiscal Effect: Costs associated with performing the duties of the trust under the bill, which include restoration and preservation of the Senate building complex, could most likely be absorbed within the existing budget of the Office of the President of the Senate. These functions are currently financed and performed by the office. The office anticipates that private donations would increase considerably in future years and any operational expenses of the trust, including the cost of retaining a consultant, would be funded with private funds.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 393 of 2005, an identical bill, passed in the Senate but was not acted upon in the House.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of General Services, Department of Legislative Services

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