

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1494 (Delegate Marriott)
 Ways and Means

State Government - State Advisory Council on the Maryland State Department of Education and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum

This bill establishes a State Advisory Council on the Maryland State Department of Education and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture Partnership. The advisory council must: (1) refine and maintain the partnership between the museum and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE); (2) establish an education task force to assist the advisory council; (3) oversee the development, implementation, and evaluation of a pre-kindergarten to grade 12 curriculum entitled African American Journey; and (4) maintain community support for the preservation of African American history and culture in Maryland.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$6,000 in FY 2007 and \$8,000 annually beginning in FY 2008 to reimburse advisory council members for travel expenses. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	6,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Net Effect	(\$6,000)	(\$8,000)	(\$8,000)	(\$8,000)	(\$8,000)

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

Local Effect: The Reginald F. Lewis Museum, not local school systems, would pay the costs associated with training school system personnel in the African American Journey curriculum, providing instructional materials for the curriculum, and evaluating the curriculum.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A Maryland African American Museum Corporation and a board of directors for the corporation are established in statute. The purpose of the corporation is to plan, develop, and manage a museum of African American history and culture. The board of directors manages the affairs of the corporation.

Background: As mentioned in the preamble to the bill, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture opened on June 25, 2005. The State provided \$29.8 million towards the construction of the museum, and the proposed fiscal 2007 State budget includes \$3.6 million for museum operating expenditures. The web-site for the museum claims that it is expected to draw approximately 130,000 visitors per year.

The museum and MSDE have already formed a partnership to establish a curriculum on African American history and culture. A document describing the partnership claims it is the “first time a museum of African American history and culture and a state department of education have worked together to develop educational materials and museum content simultaneously.” An education task force has been established as part of the partnership and is charged with developing the curriculum and professional development for school personnel.

State Fiscal Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$6,000 in fiscal 2007, which reflects the bill’s October 1, 2006 effective date. The added expenditures are for advisory council member travel expense reimbursements. In future years, the added costs are estimated at approximately \$8,000 annually.

MSDE advises that the Reginald F. Lewis Museum is paying for the curriculum development and for the training and professional development needed for teachers and other school personnel to apply the curriculum in classrooms and schools. The museum will also pay to host advisory council meetings. The majority of the funds the museum will use for these purposes come from a grant from the Reginald F. Lewis Foundation. There will be no additional State costs for these requirements.

In addition, an existing staff member at MSDE has worked with the museum to develop the museum’s content and curriculum and will continue to work with the museum and the advisory council on further developments. Again, there will be no additional costs for the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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mam/rhh

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