

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Joint Resolution 15 (Senator Forehand)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Rules and Executive Nominations

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**Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail - Eastward Extension**

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This joint resolution urges the U.S. Congress to continue to value the importance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition for the country's national heritage and to recognize the important role that many eastern states, including Maryland, served in preparation of the expedition, by supporting legislation calling for federal approval of an extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Background:** According to the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, in 1803, President Thomas Jefferson dispatched Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and the Corps of Discovery "to explore the Missouri river, & such principal stream of it, as, by it's course and communication with the waters of the Pacific ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river may offer the most direct and practicable water communication across the continent for the purpose of commerce."

Later that year, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France, making the need for knowledge about this new territory even more imperative. After months of

preparation in the East, Lewis set off from Washington, DC, and traveled through Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois, gathering men and supplies as he journeyed. Clark joined him in Clarksville, Indiana. After a winter at Camp Dubois in Wood River, Illinois, the Lewis and Clark Expedition set forth on May 14, 1804, and for the next 28 months traveled up the Missouri River, over the Rocky Mountains, down the Snake and Columbia Rivers, to the Pacific Ocean and back, exploring what are now the states of Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

According to the National Park Service, most of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail follows the Missouri and Columbia Rivers. At 3,700 miles, the trail is the second longest of the 23 National Scenic and National Historic Trails.

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation supports the extension of the trail from coast to coast to complete the story of the national adventure and to expose a broader base of Americans to the educational and cultural aspects of the expedition.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, National Park Service, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 22, 2006  
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