

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 896 (Senator Kramer, *et al.*)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Health and Government Operations

Commission on the Establishment of a Maryland Women in Military Service Monument

This bill establishes a Commission on the Establishment of a Maryland Women in Military Service Monument to identify and recommend the funding, design, construction, and placement of an appropriate monument dedicated to women from Maryland who served in the uniformed forces of the United States. The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) will staff the commission.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006 and terminates September 30, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MDVA general fund expenditures could increase by \$12,000 in FY 2007 and by \$3,000 in FY 2008 for costs related to staffing the commission. 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	12,000	3,000	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$12,000)	(\$3,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The commission must refer to the *Report to the Governor and General Assembly on Women Veterans Monument* submitted by the Task Force on the Establishment of a Maryland Women Veterans Monument. A preliminary report on the commission's findings and recommendations is due to the Governor and the General Assembly by February 1, 2007; a final report is due by September 30, 2007.

Background: Chapter 556 of 2005 established the Task Force on the Establishment of a Maryland Women Veterans Monument. It was required to identify and recommend the funding, design, construction, and placement of an appropriate monument to honor Maryland women who have served in the U.S. uniformed services. The task force terminated on December 31, 2005. In its December 2005 report, the task force stated that of the approximately 400 monuments and memorials to veterans in Maryland, none has been dedicated solely to women who served or are serving in the uniformed services of the United States. It recommended that the State:

- appoint a commission to proceed with the design, construction, and placement of an appropriate monument dedicated to all women from Maryland who are currently serving or have served in the uniformed services of the United States;
- charge the commission with the responsibility to provide a comprehensive educational component to the monument, and use a combination of private and State funds for construction;
- proceed with the project at Fort George G. Meade, or other location, thus providing cost effective space, the site for the museum/educational component of the project, visibility, existing traffic, and easy access; and
- recommend a two-year phase-in for planning and funding.

MDVA is responsible for the management of three veterans' monuments: the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, and the World War II Memorial. The task force identified a number of known women veterans monuments nationwide.

State Fiscal Effect: MDVA advises that based on experience from staffing previous task forces, it estimates that expenditures could increase by approximately \$15,000 for the duration of the task force, including expenditures for travel reimbursement, food, printing, postage, telephone, and staffing requirements, including overtime for existing staff. Assuming that costs are distributed evenly for the duration of the task force, expenditures related to staffing the commission could increase by \$12,000 in fiscal 2007 and by \$3,000 in fiscal 2008. The Department of Legislative Services advises that to the extent that research previously completed by the Task Force on the Establishment of a

Maryland Women Veterans Monument necessitates fewer commission meetings, these expenditures could be mitigated.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1070 (Delegates Cadden and Conroy) – Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2006
ncs/rhh

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