

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1424 (Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee)
(By Request – Departmental - Military)

Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Maryland Military Department Center for Military History

This departmental bill establishes the Center for Military History, consisting of the Maryland Museum of Military History and the Maryland Military Historical Research Center, within the Maryland Military Department. The Military Department provides staff (as available) for the center and the Adjutant General will designate its executive director. The bill authorizes the Maryland Military Historical Society, Inc. (MMHS) to engage in fundraising activities on behalf of the center and provide volunteers to support center activities. The volunteers would be eligible for workers' compensation benefits for injuries suffered in the course of their volunteer work for the center, as if they were paid State employees. MMHS would be allowed to use office space as needed and available within the Maryland Military Department. The center is authorized to assume title to abandoned property in its ownership under specified circumstances.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in Military Department general fund expenditures for increased workers' compensation payments. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Military Department has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.



Analysis

Bill Summary: The mission of the Maryland Museum of Military History is to:

- collect, preserve, interpret, and present significant artifacts and artwork relating to military history, including all armed services and the State's military heritage; and
- convey an awareness through exhibits, programs, and outreach, of the military service of Marylanders, and how that service has helped to preserve freedoms.

The mission of the Maryland Military Historical Research Center is to:

- collect, interpret, preserve, and present documents, photographs, electronic media, and other materials containing information or imagery relating to military history, including all armed services and the State's military heritage;
- educate the public regarding the military history of the State by providing bona fide researchers with access to its collections; and
- advise the Adjutant General and the Maryland Military Department on matters relating to heraldry, honors, lineage, and the history of organized militia units in the State.

Background: The Military Department advises that this bill has been proposed to officially recognize the existing military museum that is located within the department's headquarters as the Military Department's Center for Military History. The official recognition is intended to provide the museum the ability to collect, preserve, and interpret charitable donations, documents, photographs, electronic media, imagery, artwork, and other military artifacts. It is also intended to authorize MMHS to engage in fundraising activities for the center.

State Fiscal Effect: The Military Department advises that the bill would not impact State finances. The museum created by the bill currently exists and is staffed predominantly by volunteers. To the extent that Military Department employees are needed to staff the facility, including the appointment of an executive director of the center, the department assumes that this would be handled within existing personnel levels.

According to the Injured Workers' Insurance Fund, the State's workers' compensation carrier, the bill would make MMHS volunteers State employees for workers'

compensation purposes. This could increase Military Department general fund expenditures related to workers' compensation costs. It is assumed that any such increase would be minimal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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ncs/jr

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