

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1237

(Delegate Walker, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

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State Highways - Designation - Thurgood Marshall Memorial Highway

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This bill requires the State Highway Administration to designate Maryland Route 210 “The Thurgood Marshall Memorial Highway.”

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Transportation Trust Fund expenditures could increase in FY 2009 only to replace existing signs and related structures to reflect the new name. Any such increase cannot be reliably estimated at this time, however. No effect on revenues.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** SHA has the authority to designate certain highways to be specifically named. SHA has designated portions of highways the “Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway” and the “Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.” In addition, organizations can apply to the Maryland Transportation Commission to name particular highways. The commission makes recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation, who officially renames the highway. Examples of this type of highway include the “115<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Highway” (a section of U.S. Route 15), and the “175<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Highway” (a section of Maryland Route 151).

**Background:** Thurgood Marshall was born in Baltimore in 1908. He attended Howard University Law School, graduating in 1933. The following year he began working with the Baltimore branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). His first major case was *Murray v. Pearson* (1935), forcing the University of Maryland to admit an African American student to its law school. In 1930 Marshall had been rejected from the same school based on race.

Marshall became one of the most prominent civil rights attorneys in the nation, arguing 32 cases before the Supreme Court and winning 29 of them, including *Shelley v. Kraemer* (1948), which made racial covenants in real estate unenforceable, and *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* (1954). Marshall was named as a judge to the Court of Appeals of the Second Circuit in 1961, and became the United States Solicitor General in 1965. In 1967, Marshall became the first African American justice to serve on the Supreme Court, serving for 24 years before his retirement. He died in 1993.

**State Expenditures:** TTF expenditures could increase to replace existing signs and related structures to reflect the bill's changes. SHA advises that Maryland Route 210 is currently named "Indian Head Highway" and that as a result of the bill, it would have to replace several existing signs on the beltway and at traffic signals along Maryland Route 210. Further, SHA advises that because the new name is longer than the current name, the new signs would likely need to be larger than the existing signs, which could, therefore, also require that some sign structures be replaced.

Although SHA estimates the bill's costs at \$100,000 in fiscal 2009, it did not provide any detailed information regarding the number of signs or structures that would need to be replaced or the per-unit costs. Accordingly, Legislative Services advises that a reliable estimate of any increase in expenditures cannot be made at this time.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 13, 2008  
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Analysis by: Robert J. Rehrmann

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510