

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1381
Appropriations

(Delegate Taylor)

**Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2007 - Martin Luther King, Jr.,
National Memorial Project**

This bill specifies that the U.S. Department of the Interior may not be required to become a party to the grant agreement for the Washington, DC Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial Project grant as established by the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2007.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is technical and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 488 of 2007 authorized up to \$500,000 in matching funds to the Board of Directors of the Washington, DC Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc. for the design and construction of a national memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. located in Washington, DC.

Background: The Department of the Interior was not included as a party to the grant as specified in Chapter 488 of 2007. However, the Washington, DC Martin Luther King,

Jr., National Memorial Project Foundation advises that a subsequent change to the contract by the State added the Department of the Interior to the grant after the initial contract was signed.

It is the policy of the Department of General Services (DGS) that a grantee may not transfer ownership of a property that receives a grant within a certain number of years. DGS tried to retroactively add the U.S. Department of the Interior to the grant agreement, because that agency, not the grantee, will own the monument and land upon completion of the project. However, the U.S. Department of the Interior refused to sign the grant agreement. Thus, the bill exempts this project from the standard DGS requirement.

In 1998, President William J. Clinton signed a Congressional joint resolution authorizing the formation of the Washington, DC. Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc. with the purpose of building a memorial in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The U.S. Congress has set aside four acres of land on the National Mall for the monument. The future site of the monument is northwest of the Roosevelt Memorial and between the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials.

The total cost to complete the memorial is \$120 million. The foundation has applied for the building permit to begin construction on the project. The memorial is expected to be complete in late 2010 or early 2011.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Washington, DC Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial Project Foundation; Department of General Services; Department of Legislative Services

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