

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1461 (Delegates Shank and Bates)
 Health and Government Operations

Maryland Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission

This bill establishes the Maryland Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission and a corresponding special fund. The Maryland State Archives must provide staff support for the commission. The commission must report on its work to the Governor and the General Assembly by the first day of the General Assembly session each year.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2009 and terminates June 30, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$98,100 in FY 2010 for contractual staff to support the commission and complete the required annual evaluation. Additional expenditures may be required for reimbursements for commission members. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. Special fund revenues may increase beginning in FY 2010.

(in dollars)	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	98,100	127,100	132,700	138,500	144,600
Net Effect	(\$98,100)	(\$127,100)	(\$132,700)	(\$138,500)	(\$144,600)

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: (1) plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War; (2) encourage interdisciplinary examination of the American Civil War; (3) facilitate balanced activities related to the American Civil War throughout the State; (4) encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, and other organizations throughout the State to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the American Civil War; (5) provide technical assistance to localities and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War; (6) develop programs and facilities to ensure that the sesquicentennial commemoration of the American Civil War results in a positive legacy and long-term public benefit; and (7) encourage the development and conduct of programs designed to involve all citizens in activities that commemorate the American Civil War.

The bill also establishes a Maryland Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission Fund as a nonlapsing special fund administered by the commission and to be used only to fund the commission and its duties. The fund consists of gifts, grants, donations, bequests, or other funds from any source that are received by the commission for the commission's work. Expenditures from the fund may be made only in accordance with the State budget.

Current Law: None applicable.

Background: The American Civil War began April 12, 1861 when Confederate forces attacked a U.S. military installation at Fort Sumter in South Carolina. General Robert E. Lee of the Confederate Army surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1865 to end the war. Approximately 620,000 soldiers on both sides were killed in the deadliest conflict in American history. At least one significant battle of the war was fought in Maryland, the Battle of Antietam, which occurred on September 17, 1862 and was one of the bloodiest days in American history with approximately 23,000 casualties.

State Fiscal Effect: The bill requires the Maryland State Archives to provide staff support to the commission in its mission of promoting awareness of the American Civil War in Maryland as well as planning and promoting associated activities. As a result, general fund expenditures for the State Archives will increase by \$98,147 in fiscal 2010, which accounts for a 90-day start-up delay. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring three contractual employees – one outreach coordinator and two archivists – to provide staff support to the commission's activities and prepare the annual evaluation to the Governor

and the General Assembly as required by the bill. The estimate includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Contractual Positions	3
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$97,517
Operating Expenses	630
Total FY 2010 State Expenditures	\$98,147

Future year expenditures reflect full salaries with 4.4% annual increases and 6.8% employee turnover; and 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

The estimate does not include funds for commission member reimbursements. As a result, additional funds may be needed each year; however, the amount cannot be reliably estimated and depends on the number and amount of reimbursements requested by commission members each year.

In addition, special fund revenues may increase to the extent there are gifts, grants, donations, bequests, or other donations made to the fund.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: While SB 1023 is not designated as a cross file to HB 1461, the bills are identical.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Archives, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 19, 2009
ncs/hlb

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