

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 124

(Senator Astle, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Flag Display on State House Grounds - POW/MIA Flag and a Flag to Honor and Remember Individuals Who Died in the Line of Duty

This bill requires that a flag to honor and remembers members of the armed forces who died in the line of duty be flown on the State House grounds on each day that the POW/MIA flag is flown on the State House grounds. The bill also increases the days on which the POW/MIA flag is to be flown to include the third Saturday in May (for Armed Forces Day) and July 4 (for Independence Day). “Honor and Remember Flag” means either (1) the flag created by Honor and Remember, Inc.; or (2) the flag designated by the U.S. Congress as the official symbol to honor and remember members of the armed forces who died in the line of duty.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Department of General Services is responsible for flying flags from the State House. Flying another flag from the State House would have a minimal fiscal impact on the department. It is assumed that the cost of a flag would be less than \$100.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each year, the POW/MIA flag must be flown on the State House grounds on Memorial Day weekend, Veterans' Day weekend, and the third Friday in September (for POW/MIA Recognition Day).

Background: According to Honor and Remember, Inc., a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the mission of Honor and Remember is to create, establish, and promote a nationally recognized flag that will fly continuously as a visible reminder to all Americans of the lives lost in defense of national freedoms.

The Honor and Remember flag is shown in **Exhibit 1**. Federal legislation that would have designated the flag as the official symbol to recognize and honor members of the armed forces who died in the line of duty, H.R. 1034 (111th Congress, 2009-2010), was referred to the House Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, but received no further action.

Exhibit 1 Honor and Remember and POW/MIA Flags



Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 96 (Delegate George, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Honor and Remember, Inc.; Department of General Services; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2011
ncs/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 13, 2011
Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 2, 2011

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