### **Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly 2011 Session

# FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE Revised

House Bill 96 (Delegate George, et al.)

Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

## Flag Display on State House Grounds - Honor and Remember and POW/MIA Flags

This bill requires that the Honor and Remember flag 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. to recognize and honor members of the armed forces who died in the line of duty; or (2) the flag designated by the U.S. Congress as the official symbol to recognize and honor 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.

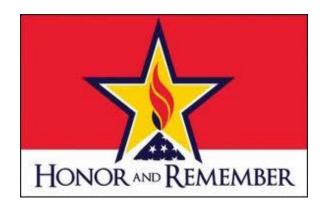
#### **Analysis**

**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 (111<sup>th</sup> 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: SB 124 (Senator Astle) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 2, 2011

mc/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - April 9, 2011

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