

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1371 (Delegate O'Donnell, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

**State Government - Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman Memorial Statues -
Placement and Commission**

This bill requires that a Frederick Douglass Memorial Statue and a Harriet Tubman Memorial Statue be placed on the State House grounds, one on each side of the Roger Brooke Taney Statue. The Commission on Artistic Property must oversee the care and maintenance of the statues. The bill establishes a Commission on the Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman Memorial Statues. The Maryland Department of Planning must provide staff support for the commission, in consultation with other specified agencies. The commission must develop and implement a process to create the statues; advise the Governor, General Assembly, and State agencies on matters relating to the statues; and by December 31, 2012, develop a plan and capital program sufficient to support a capital budget appropriation for construction and installation of the statues.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012, and terminates June 30, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures for the Maryland Department of Planning will increase by \$72,200 in FY 2013 and by \$51,700 in FY 2014. Capital expenditures may increase by at least \$500,000 in FY 2014, depending upon the design plan adopted by the commission for the statues. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Division of Historical and Cultural Programs in the Maryland Department of Planning must provide staff support for the commission, in consultation with other appropriate agencies including the State House Trust, the Maryland State Arts Council, the Commission on African American History and Culture, and the Department of General Services. The commission must submit an interim report to the Governor and General Assembly by June 30, 2013, and complete all of its duties by June 30, 2014.

Current Law: The Commission on Artistic Property is the official custodian of all valuable paintings and other objects of decorative art owned by or loaned to the State, except for specified items in the Government House. The commission is responsible for the acquisition, custody, display, location, preservation, proper care, security, and restoration of the objects in its official custody.

The State House Trust is responsible for the restoration and preservation of the State House; and disapproves, or approves and supervises:

- any proposed repair, improvement, or other change to the State House or to any other building within State Circle, including any change to the furnishings or fixtures of those buildings; and
- any proposed landscaping of the grounds of those buildings.

Background: Frederick Douglass was born on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He escaped from slavery and became a lecturer for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. He published *The North Star* weekly, wrote three autobiographies, and participated in the first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls, New York. Douglass was a leading opponent of the fugitive slave law. He was an advisor to President Abraham Lincoln, a United States Marshal for the District of Columbia, and Minister-General to the Republic of Haiti.

Harriet Tubman was born a slave in Dorchester County, Maryland. She later became a Union spy and, as one of the most well-known conductors on the Underground Railroad, helped lead many slaves to freedom. In her later years, Tubman became active in the women's suffrage movement. The one-hundredth anniversary of her death occurs on March 10, 2013.

Roger B. Taney was born in Calvert County, Maryland in 1777. He served in the Maryland House of Delegates and the Maryland Senate, as the Attorney General of Maryland, and Attorney General of the United States. He served briefly as Secretary of the Treasury and was Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court for nearly

three decades. Justice Taney is widely known for writing the majority opinion in the *Dred Scott v. Sandford* case.

State Fiscal Effect: The Commission on the Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman Memorial Statues must develop a plan and capital program by December 31, 2012, and complete all of its duties by June 30, 2014. Therefore, for purposes of this fiscal and policy note, it is assumed that any capital expenditure relating to the statues will occur in fiscal 2014. The cost to install similar memorial statues in Annapolis in recent years has totaled \$150,000 for the Louis L. Goldstein Memorial Statue at the Goldstein Treasury Building and \$350,000 for the Thurgood Marshall Memorial Statue on Lawyers' Mall. The level of planned capital expenditures will depend upon the design plan adopted by the commission, but it may total at least \$500,000.

The Maryland Department of Planning estimates that departmental expenditures will increase by \$72,200 to cover costs associated with hiring a consultant, covering expenses for commission members, and paying the honoraria for, and expenses of, finalists in a design competition for creation of the statues. Expenditures increase by approximately \$51,700 in fiscal 2014 to cover continuing consultant and commission member costs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Business and Economic Development, Maryland Department of Planning, Department of General Services, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Legislative Services

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mm/hlb

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