

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 1069

(Senator Pugh)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

State Government - Statue of Harriet Tubman

This bill requires the Governor to authorize the gift of a statue of Harriet Tubman from the citizens of Maryland to the U.S. government, to request the U.S. Congress to place the statue in the U.S. Capitol Building, and to establish the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission. Under the supervision and direction of the State Treasurer, the commission is responsible for raising private funds to cover costs associated with the statue, and represents the State in selecting the sculptor of the statue. Commission members are appointed by the Governor from certain nonprofit organizations and other groups.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: State finances are not directly affected, in that private funds will be used to pay costs associated with the statue. In addition, the Treasurer's Office can provide supervision and direction using existing resources; and the Governor's Office can make the required authorization, request to the U.S. Congress, and commission appointments with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The U.S. Congress created the National Statuary Hall Collection in 1864 and authorized the collection to allow each state to provide two statues of notable citizens for display in the U.S. Capitol. Any state may request the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress (which oversees the collection) to approve the

replacement of a statue the state has provided for display if (1) the request has been approved by a resolution adopted by the state legislature; (2) the request has been approved by the governor of the state; and (3) either the statue to be replaced has been on display for 10 years or the joint committee waives this requirement.

Both statues provided by Maryland to the National Statutory Hall Collection were sculpted by Richard E. Brooks and given to the collection in 1903. One of these statues is of Charles Carroll, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a drafter of the Maryland Constitution, and Maryland's Senator. The other statue is of John Hanson, one of the strongest colonial advocates of independence. He served as a delegate to the Continental Congress and, later, as "President of the United States in Congress Assembled" under the Articles of Confederation.

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 100th anniversary of her death occurs on March 10, 2013.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1429 (Delegate Lee, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office, Maryland State Treasurer's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 2012
mc/hlb

Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510