

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Joint Resolution 7 (Senator Madaleno)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Rules and Executive Nominations

Extending the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

This joint resolution urges the National Park Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior to (1) expeditiously complete and provide to Congress the Eastern Legacy Special Resource Study and (2) include within the study a recommendation that the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail be extended to the East by inclusion of the historically significant eastern corridors of the “Corps of Discovery” expedition for the period of 1803 through 1809.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The joint resolution does not affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: As noted in the preamble, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail was established by Congress in 1978 and extended to the West from Wood River, Illinois, to the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington. The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 directed the National Park Service to conduct an Eastern Legacy Special Resource Study to assess the suitability and feasibility of extending the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail by including the Eastern Legacy sites, which are the historic routes and sites in the East that were vital to the preparation and planning of the Lewis and Clark “Corps of Discovery” expedition.

According to the National Park Service, between May 1804 and September 1806, 31 men, 1 woman, and a baby traveled the plains of the Midwest to the Shores of the Pacific Ocean. They called themselves the Corps of Discovery and traveled west in search of a water route to the Pacific Ocean. The Corps of Discovery recorded a journal during the expedition which has been a significant source of knowledge and understanding of the Corps.

According to the joint resolution's preamble, Maryland was the first state entered by the expedition upon Meriwether Lewis' departure from the White House in Washington, DC, on July 5, 1803. Expedition material and equipment, including an iron boat frame crafted at the Federal Armory in Harpers Ferry and, likely, a pocket chronometer purchased by Lewis from watchmaker Thomas Parker of Philadelphia, traveled by road across Maryland prior to the start of the river portion of the expedition. In addition, there is evidence of connections between the expedition and Frederick, Maryland. Expedition member John Collins was born and raised in Frederick County, Maryland. The preamble also notes that the War Department Financial Records for the Corps of Discovery are located in the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland. Artifacts from the expedition were sent by way of St. Louis to New Orleans and finally to Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland, on their journey to the White House and Monticello.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, National Park Service, Department of Legislative Services

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md/lgc

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