

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 636

(Senators Klausmeier and King)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

**Commission on the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of
the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution**

This bill expands the membership of the Commission on the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to include a member of the Maryland Heritage Women’s History Center.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances. Any expense reimbursements for the additional commission member are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 603 of 2013 established the Commission on the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Maryland State Archives (MSA) staffs the commission.

Commission members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

Background: The Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted American women the right to vote, was passed by both houses of the U.S. Congress in 1919. Maryland's representatives, Senator Joseph I. France and Congressmen William Andrews, John Linthicum, and Frederick Zihlman, voted in favor of the resolution that sent the proposed amendment to the states.

Tennessee ratified the Nineteenth Amendment on August 18, 1920, which was the final ratification necessary to enact the amendment. Thus, the years 2019 through 2020 will mark the 100th anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.

Additional Comments: MSA advises that the commission has been inactive since the fall of 2014. The former chair resigned in 2015 and a new chair to lead the work of the commission has not been identified as of February 2017. MSA also advises that a half-time contractual staff member at a cost of approximately \$40,000 annually is still required to staff the commission, as noted in the fiscal and policy note for Chapter 603 of 2013. However, the need for the part-time contractual employee results from Chapter 603 and not this bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Archives; Department of Legislative Services

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