

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
 Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 597

(Delegate Patterson, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Commission on African American Patriots in the American Revolutionary War

This bill establishes the Commission on African American Patriots in the American Revolutionary War to conduct research to advance the documentation of African American patriots, send out instructional information to the local boards of education, develop and print a publication, assemble an inventory of significant sites, and develop a commemorative plan. Further, each local board of education may provide instruction on the topic using information provided by the commission. Bowie State University (BSU) must provide office space and staff for the commission. **The bill takes effect October 1, 2018, and terminates September 30, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** BSU higher education expenditures increase by approximately \$41,300 in FY 2019 to staff the commission. Future years reflect annualization and the assumed timeline for implementation of the commission’s required duties. Accordingly, FY 2023 expenditures increase by *at least* \$202,000 and reflect printing and implementation of a commemorative plan, as explained below. Expenditures end in FY 2024. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Higher Ed Exp.	41,300	55,000	55,000	55,000	202,300
Net Effect	(\$41,300)	(\$55,000)	(\$55,000)	(\$55,000)	(\$202,300)

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease*

**Local Effect:** Authorizing a local school system to provide specified instruction does not affect local finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The bill details the duties of the staff. The commission must develop a plan to commemorate Maryland African American Patriots in the American Revolutionary War for the sites inventoried through the placement of statues, landmark plaques, or historical markers. The commission must work with the Department of General Services (DGS) to implement the plan developed.

**Current Law/Background:** As in the other colonies, African Americans from Maryland fought in the American Revolutionary War. The accomplishments of at least 60 Maryland African American patriots of the Revolutionary War are documented in the Daughters of the American Revolution's book [Forgotten Patriots](#), which is available on their website for free.

**State Expenditures:** As shown in **Exhibit 1**, BSU expenditures increase by an estimated \$41,250 in fiscal 2019; from fiscal 2020 through 2022, costs are estimated at \$55,000 a year. However, under the timeline discussed below, BSU expenditures increase further, by *at least an additional* \$147,250, in fiscal 2023 – the last full year of the commission (as the bill terminates September 30, 2023 (fiscal 2024)). The following information and assumptions were used in this estimate.

- The estimate reflects the cost of BSU hiring a part-time student fellow as staff to implement the requirements of the bill. The part-time student fellow is assumed to receive a fellowship stipend of \$10,000 per year. The estimate also reflects the cost of compensating BSU faculty a total of \$40,000 for additional duties related to the commission, primarily the research that underlies the other duties – including developing material appropriate for the instruction of children. The faculty stipend may be divided among several faculty members, including those with expertise in history and those with expertise in education. Further, BSU's ongoing operating costs, including supplies, computers, printing, and travel to sites around the State, are estimated at \$5,000 annually. The fiscal 2019 estimate accounts for the bill's October 1, 2018 effective date. Costs are assumed to continue through the bill's September 30, 2023 termination date.
- The bill requires BSU to provide office space (as well as support) for the commission; it is assumed office space is provided at no cost, particularly since a student fellow and faculty are assumed to be staffing the commission.
- The bill requires the commission, and thus BSU, to develop and print a publication on the history and records of the Maryland African American Patriots in the American Revolutionary War. The commission must also send information to the

local boards of education that may be used in providing instruction on the topic. According to MSDE, there are approximately 1,430 public schools in the State. It is assumed that printing costs per school are \$75 (which assumes a printing cost of \$3 for a set of 25 books per school); accordingly, total printing costs are \$107,250. Actual printing costs may be more or less depending on the cost of printing and the number of copies printed. For the purposes of this estimate, it is assumed that these costs are incurred in fiscal 2023 when the research is assumed to be complete. If the research is completed more expeditiously, printing costs may be incurred sooner.

- The bill also requires the commission to develop a plan to commemorate Maryland African American Patriots in the American Revolutionary War and work with DGS to implement the plan. It is assumed that the commemorative plan costs *at least* \$40,000. Actual costs will depend on how the commission decides to commemorate the patriots. However, for *informational purposes only*, outside historical markers cost approximately \$600 uninstalled, and custom outside statues typically cost tens of thousands of dollars.
- The bill terminates September 30, 2023; thus, all expenditures terminate after the first quarter of fiscal 2024.

**Exhibit 1**  
**Implementation Costs and Associated Timeline**

	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>
# of Student Fellows	0.5				
Faculty/Student Fellow Stipends	\$37,500	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Publication Printing					107,250
Implement Commemorative Plan					40,000
Operating Costs	3,750	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
<b>Total BSU Expenditures</b>	<b>\$41,250</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$202,250</b>

BSU: Bowie State University

Source: Department of Legislative Services

**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** Although designated as a cross file, SB 417 (Senator Robinson, *et al.* - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) is not identical.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Montgomery counties; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Budget and Management; Department of General Services; Maryland State Archives; Daughters of the American Revolution; Bowie State University; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 19, 2018  
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