

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

Senate Bill 417 (Senator Robinson, *et al.*)
 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 (commission) 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 commemoration plan. Further, each local board of education may provide instruction on the topic using information provided by the commission. For fiscal 2020, the Governor must include at least \$200,000 in the State budget for specified activities. In addition, the chair, who must be the member appointed from the Heritage Museum, is entitled to an annual salary of \$48,000. For fiscal 2020 to 2024 a member of the commission is entitled to a \$5,000 stipend for serving in the preceding fiscal year. **The bill takes effect October 1, 2018, and terminates September 20, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by an estimated \$94,500 in FY 2019 due to hiring staff and for the mandated salary. Future years reflect additional mandated expenditures beginning in FY 2020. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation from FY 2020 to 2024.**

(in dollars)	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	94,500	470,100	273,300	277,500	281,900
Net Effect	(\$94,500)	(\$470,100)	(\$273,300)	(\$277,500)	(\$281,900)

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 Maryland State Archives (MSA) must provide office space and staff for the commission and the staff must be adequately funded. The commission must conduct research in consultation with specified entities. The commission staff provided by MSA must be adequately funded to carry out the duties of the commission. The bill details the duties of the commission 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 statutes, landmark plaques, or historical markers. The commission must work with the Department of General Services 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.

[The Heritage Museum](#) is a community, non-profit institution for the preservation and presentation of African, African American, Caribbean, Latin American and Native American history and culture.

State Expenditures: As shown in **Exhibit 1**, general fund expenditures increase by an estimated \$94,489 in fiscal 2019 and increase to \$470,098 in fiscal 2020. Annual expenditures of approximately \$270,000 continue in fiscal 2022 and 2023 before terminating in September 2023 (fiscal 2024). The following information and assumptions were used in this estimate.

Exhibit 1
Estimated Commission Expenditures
Fiscal 2019-2021

	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>
# of Staff	1.5		
# of Student Fellow	1		
Commission Chair Salary	\$24,000	\$48,000	\$48,000
Commission Stipend		110,000	110,000
Research and Publication		100,000	
Commemoration Plan		100,000	
Archive Staff and Fellow	70,489	112,098	115,288
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$94,489	\$470,098	\$273,288

Note: Expenditures continue until fiscal 2024.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

- The bill requires MSA to provide office space and support for the commission; it is assumed office space is provided at no cost.
- The estimate reflects the cost of hiring a full-time archivist, a half-time administrative support person, and a part-time student fellow to implement the requirements of the bill beginning in fiscal 2019. This estimate reflects a 90-day start-up delay following the October 1, 2018 effective date. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses. The part-time student fellow is assumed to receive a fellowship of \$10,000 per year.
- The bill mandates \$200,000 for the commission in fiscal 2020, of which \$100,000 is for the commission to conduct research and print the publication required and \$100,000 is for the commission to develop and implement the commemorative plan. It is assumed that the commemorative plan developed by the commission costs \$100,000, and that any costs will be drawn down from the mandated appropriation. Further, it is assumed the Department of General Services can work with the commission using existing resources. Likewise, it is assumed that the total cost to conduct research and print the publication beyond the staff salaries and stipends is \$100,000. Any additional cost will increase general fund expenditures by an equal amount.

- An annual salary of \$48,000 for the chair is mandated by the bill. This estimate assumes that the chair receives six months of salary in fiscal 2019, which reflects a 90-day start-up delay following the October 1, 2018 effective date.
- A stipend of \$5,000 per commission member is mandated for fiscal 2020 through 2024. It is assumed that the chair does not receive a stipend. Thus, there are 22 members that will receive a stipend at an annualized cost of \$110,000.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: Although designated as a cross file, HB 597 (Delegate Patterson, *et al.* - Health and Government Operations) 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; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2018
nb/rhh

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

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