

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 658

(The Speaker, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State House Trust - Duties - Landscaping and Construction of Lawyer's Mall

This bill makes the State House Trust responsible for the landscaping and construction of Lawyer's Mall. The trust must also disapprove or approve and supervise any proposed improvement, nonemergency repair, or other change to Lawyer's Mall. However, the trust is not required to be responsible for, or disapprove or approve and supervise, the coordination, security, and scheduling of rallies and other events held on Lawyer's Mall.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The State House Trust can handle the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources. The Department of General Services (DGS) advises that its construction and maintenance responsibilities related to Lawyer's Mall remain unchanged, subject to an additional layer of approvals and oversight. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State House Trust consists of the (1) Governor; (2) President of the Senate; (3) Speaker of the House of Delegates; and (4) Chairman of the Maryland Historical Trust, the chairman's designee, or other specified officials of the Maryland Historical Trust. Members of the trust can appoint up to three nonvoting associate members who must have experience and interest in historic preservation.

The State House Trust is responsible for the restoration and preservation of the State House and must disapprove or approve or supervise (1) any proposed repair, improvement, or other change to the State House or to any other buildings within State Circle, including any change to the furnishings or fixtures of those buildings, and (2) any proposed landscaping of the grounds of those buildings. The trust may retain an architect or consultant with specified qualifications.

Background: DGS is generally responsible for the maintenance and security of the State House complex, including Lawyer’s Mall, an outdoor pedestrian area adjoining the State House, Government House, and the Legislative Services Building. As Lawyer’s Mall is not *within* State Circle, it does not fall under the State House Trust’s jurisdiction.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 608 (The President) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2018
nb/ljm Third Reader - March 17, 2018
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 17, 2018
Revised - Clarification - May 11, 2018

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