

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 999 (Delegates Mosby and Acevero)
Health and Government Operations

State House Trust - Lawyer's Mall - Maintenance

This bill requires the State House Trust (SHT) to ensure that the grounds and structures of Lawyer's Mall, including the statue of Thurgood Marshall, are maintained in the same material condition that they were in on July 1, 2018. The structures and grounds of Lawyer's Mall may be altered as necessary for repair or maintenance only if the grounds and structures are returned at the earliest practicable time to the same material condition they were in on July 1, 2018. SHT may not authorize the addition of structures to Lawyer's Mall that were not present on July 1, 2018.

The bill is contingent on completion of the construction that the Department of General Services (DGS) began on Lawyer's Mall in August 2018.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

State House Trust

SHT is responsible for the restoration and preservation of the State House and the landscaping and construction of Lawyer's Mall. In addition, the trust must disapprove, or approve and supervise:

- any proposed repair, improvement, or other change to the State House or to any other building within State Circle, including any change to the furnishings or fixtures of those buildings;
- any proposed landscaping of the grounds of those buildings; and
- any proposed improvement, nonemergency repair, or other change to Lawyer's Mall.

Department of General Services

DGS has jurisdiction over the operation, maintenance, and protection of specified State buildings and public grounds in Annapolis and Baltimore. The Maryland Capitol Police within DGS is a full-service police department that provides law enforcement and security services for State buildings, State parking lots, and State parking garages in Annapolis and Baltimore.

Background: In August 2018, DGS began a multi-phased construction project to replace the underground infrastructure of Lawyer's Mall. According to DGS, the project includes replacement of aging utilities, renovation of Lawyer's Mall plaza, landscaping, and other improvements. General obligation bond funding totaling \$5 million has already been authorized for the project, and an additional \$6 million is included in the Governor's proposed fiscal 2020 capital budget.

DGS advises that the underground work will likely be completed by January 2020; design work and planning for the above-ground renovation of Lawyer's Mall is expected to begin in March and take approximately one year. DGS estimates that the renovation of Lawyer's Mall will be completed by January 2021.

State Expenditures: DGS advises that the bill's requirements may impact the design of the Lawyer's Mall renovation, for which design and planning work has yet to begin, but will not impact the overall cost or timeline of the project. DGS can maintain Lawyer's Mall

as specified under the bill with existing resources. In addition, SHT can implement the bill with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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