

Chapter 688

**(Senate Bill 946)**

AN ACT concerning

**Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission for a certain purpose; providing for the membership, chair, and staffing of the Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Governor to fill a certain vacancy on the Commission under certain circumstances; providing for the duties of the Commission; requiring the Commission to establish certain advisory committees; requiring the Commission to meet at certain times; requiring the Commission to submit certain reports to the Governor and the General Assembly at certain times; defining a certain term; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission.

BY adding to

Article – State Government

Section 9–3301 through 9–3307 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 33. Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, In 1634, the settlers who founded Maryland landed at St. Clements Island aboard the Ark and the Dove, before establishing the colony at St. Mary's City; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate for the State of Maryland to plan and conduct observances marking the 400th anniversary of the founding of Maryland in 2034; and

WHEREAS, As Maryland's first settlement and first capital, Historic St. Mary's City will play an important role in leading these observances; and

WHEREAS, It is in the interest of Marylanders to provide for appropriate activities to commemorate and maximize the understanding of residents and visitors about the founding of Maryland and its meaning to Marylanders, particularly of Maryland's leadership in establishing the principle of religious toleration; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly desires that these events be carried out in a historically accurate, inclusive, cohesive, and dignified manner and desires to create a coordinating mechanism to ensure efficiency and to advise the Governor and the General Assembly of how best to observe this anniversary across our State; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – State Government**

**SUBTITLE 33. HISTORIC ST. MARY’S CITY FORT TO 400 COMMISSION.**

**9–3301.**

IN THIS SUBTITLE, “COMMISSION” MEANS THE HISTORIC ST. MARY’S CITY  
FORT TO 400 COMMISSION.

**9–3302.**

(A) THERE IS A HISTORIC ST. MARY’S CITY FORT TO 400 COMMISSION.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO PLAN, PRODUCE, AND  
FACILITATE MATERIALS, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES TO COMMEMORATE THE 400TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MARYLAND.

**9–3303.**

(A) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

~~(1) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;~~

~~(2) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;~~

~~(3)~~ (1) ~~ONE MEMBER~~ TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF  
MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

~~(4)~~ (2) ~~ONE MEMBER~~ TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF  
DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

~~(5)~~ (3) THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT OR THE  
SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;

~~(6)~~ (4) THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE OR THE SECRETARY’S  
DESIGNEE;

~~(7)~~ (5) THE SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES OR THE  
SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;

~~(8)~~ (6) THE SECRETARY OF PLANNING OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

~~(9)~~ (7) THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

~~(10)~~ (8) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS;

~~(11)~~ (9) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE;

~~(12)~~ (10) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY COMMISSION;

~~(13) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND;~~

~~(14)~~ (11) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND REDISCOVERY 400 INITIATIVE; AND

~~(15)~~ (12) FIVE MEMBERS WITH RELEVANT INTEREST OR EXPERTISE, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

(B) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION AND ANY ADVISORY COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 9-3305 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DIVERSE COMMUNITIES AND REGIONS WITHIN THE STATE.

(C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION.

(D) THE DIVISION OF TOURISM, FILM, AND THE ARTS SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COMMISSION, ASSISTED BY THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST AND THE MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES.

(E) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:

(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION; BUT

(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

**(F) A VACANCY ON THE COMMISSION SHALL BE FILLED BY THE GOVERNOR.**

**9-3304.**

**THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

**(1) COORDINATE THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS TO COMMEMORATE THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MARYLAND;**

**(2) PROMOTE THE IDENTIFICATION, DOCUMENTATION, AND PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES RELATED TO THE FOUNDING OF MARYLAND;**

**(3) ASSIST IN PROTECTING, IMPROVING, AND DEVELOPING EXISTING EDUCATIONAL AND INTERPRETIVE INSTITUTIONS, SITES, AND MUSEUMS IN PROMOTING THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MARYLAND;**

**(4) ENSURE DEVELOPMENT OF A MODEL SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM ON THE FOUNDING OF MARYLAND;**

**(5) PROMOTE NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MARYLAND;**

**(6) ENSURE THAT COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, AND PRODUCTS PROVIDE LASTING VALUE AND PUBLIC BENEFITS BEYOND THE CELEBRATION OF THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MARYLAND;**

**(7) SECURE SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES PLANNED AND ASSISTED BY THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING THE FORMATION OF AN APPROPRIATE LEGAL ENTITY;**

**(8) PROVIDE LEADERSHIP FOR AND COORDINATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN AND AROUND ST. MARY'S CITY TO PROMOTE THE REGION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS; AND**

**(9) PERFORM OTHER ACTIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THE COMMISSION.**

**9-3305.**

**(A) THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH ADVISORY COMMITTEES RELATED TO:**

- (1) DEVELOPMENT AND SPONSOR RELATIONS;**
- (2) RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE;**
- (3) EDUCATION AND CURRICULUM;**
- (4) PROGRAMS AND EVENTS;**
- (5) TRANSPORTATION AND CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE;**
- (6) COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING;**
- (7) OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT; AND**

**(8) ANY OTHER ASPECT OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MARYLAND THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS NECESSARY.**

**(B) (1) THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION SHALL APPOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO BROADLY REPRESENT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INTERESTS.**

**(2) ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION.**

**9-3306.**

**(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST TWICE EACH YEAR AT TIMES AND PLACES TO BE DETERMINED BY THE CHAIR.**

**(B) THE COMMISSION:**

**(1) SHALL ADOPT PROCEDURES FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS; AND**

**(2) MAY ESTABLISH A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO RECEIVE FUNDS FOR THE COMMISSION.**

**9-3307.**

**(A) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2022, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY A REPORT CONTAINING THE COMMISSION'S PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 400TH**

**ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MARYLAND.**

**(B) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2022, AND EACH NOVEMBER 1 THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY A REPORT THAT INCLUDES:**

**(1) AN UPDATE ON THE PLAN OF ACTION SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION;**

**(2) IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLES AND BENCHMARKS; AND**

**(3) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND OTHER ACTIONS THE COMMISSION DEEMS NECESSARY TO FURTHER ITS MISSION.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 14 years and, at the end of September 30, 2035, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

**Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 30, 2021.**