

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 473 (Senator Klausmeier)
 Education, Energy, and the Environment

Commission to Establish a Memorial to the Global War on Terror

This bill establishes the Commission to Establish a Memorial to the Global War on Terror. The commission must provide recommendations for the funding, design, construction, and placement of an appropriate memorial dedicated to Marylanders who have fought in the Global War on Terror and their families. The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) must provide staff for the commission. Commission members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses. By February 1, 2025, the commission must submit a preliminary report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly; a final report is due by October 1, 2025. **The bill takes effect when the termination provision specified in Section 2 of Chapter 423 of 2022 takes effect (July 1, 2024) and terminates two years later (June 30, 2026).**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$54,600 in FY 2025 and by \$30,400 in FY 2026. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	54,600	30,400	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$54,600)	(\$30,400)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: MDVA administers the Veterans’ Memorials and Monuments Program to provide for the operation, maintenance, security, and preservation of veterans’ memorials and monuments. MDVA is authorized, as provided for in the budget, to (1) lease land on behalf of the State or a political subdivision of the State or (2) acquire land that has been improved by construction of a memorial or monument. MDVA must, as provided for in the budget, provide for the management of veterans’ memorials and monuments. MDVA may delegate any of its powers and duties with respect to the program to a special commission or board created by MDVA and approved by the Governor. MDVA may acquire, hold, use, and improve property for the program.

Chapter 423 established the Commission to Establish a Maryland Women Veterans Memorial to provide recommendations for the funding, design, construction, and placement of an appropriate memorial dedicated to Maryland women veterans. MDVA staffs the commission. A final report of the commission is due by September 30, 2023, and Chapter 423 is set to terminate June 30, 2024.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures increase by \$54,639 in fiscal 2025, which accounts for a 90-day start-up delay from the bill’s July 1, 2024 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one contractual administrative officer to staff the commission and produce the mandatory reports. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses. MDVA advises that it is unable to absorb the additional duties under the bill with existing staff.

	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>
Contractual Position	1.0	(1.0)
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$47,230	\$29,844
Operating Expenses/Equipment	<u>7,409</u>	<u>536</u>
Total MDVA Expenditures	\$54,639	\$30,380

The fiscal 2026 estimate reflects (1) the salary with an annual increase and employee turnover; (2) an annual increase in ongoing operating expenses; and (3) elimination of the contractual position on December 31, 2025, following submission of the required report.

This estimate does not include any health insurance costs that could be incurred for specified contractual employees under the State’s implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Expense reimbursements for commission members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 605 (Delegate Allen, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2023
km/lgc

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