

Chapter 434

(Senate Bill 448)

AN ACT concerning

~~Commission to Study on~~ ***Commission to Study African American Civil War Soldiers in Maryland***

FOR the purpose of ~~establishing the Commission to Study African American Civil War Soldiers in Maryland to study requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with certain entities, to conduct a study on~~ *establishing the Commission to Study African American Civil War Soldiers in Maryland to study* the history of the African American soldiers who fought for the Union Army and make certain recommendations regarding ~~a memorial one or more memorials~~ *a memorial* dedicated to African American Civil War soldiers; and generally relating to ~~the Commission to Study a study on~~ *the Commission to Study African American Civil War Soldiers in Maryland.*

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That:

~~(a) There is a Commission to Study African American Civil War Soldiers in Maryland.~~

~~(b) The Commission consists of the following members:~~

~~(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;~~

~~(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and~~

~~(3) the following members, appointed by the Governor:~~

~~(i) one representative from the State Archives;~~

~~(ii) one representative from the Department of Planning;~~

~~(iii) one representative from the Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments;~~

~~(iv) one representative from the Commission on African American History and Culture;~~

~~(v) one representative from Preservation Maryland, Inc.; and~~

~~(vi) one representative from the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, Inc.~~

~~(e) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Commission.~~

~~(d) The State Archives shall provide staff for the Commission.~~

~~(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) The Commission The Department of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the State Archives, the Department of Planning, the Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments, the Commission on African American History and Culture, Preservation Maryland, Inc., and the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, Inc., shall:~~

~~(a) There is a Commission to Study African American Civil War Soldiers in Maryland.~~

~~(b) The Commission consists of the following members:~~

~~(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;~~

~~(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and~~

~~(3) the following members, appointed by the Governor:~~

~~(i) one representative from the State Archives;~~

~~(ii) one representative from the Department of Planning;~~

~~(iii) one representative from the Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments;~~

~~(iv) one representative from the Commission on African American History and Culture;~~

~~(v) one representative from Preservation Maryland, Inc.; and~~

~~(vi) one representative from the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, Inc.~~

(c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Commission.

(d) The State Archives shall provide staff for the Commission.

(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) The Commission shall:

(1) study the history of African American Civil War soldiers who fought for the Union Army in Maryland, including muster rolls, locations of service, and all distinguished honors and recognitions awarded; and

(2) make findings and recommendations regarding the funding, design, construction, and location of ~~an one or more~~ *an* appropriate ~~memorial~~ ~~memorials~~ *memorial* dedicated to the African American Civil War soldiers in Maryland.

~~(g) (b) (g)~~ On or before December 1, 2024, the ~~Commission~~ ~~Department of Veterans Affairs~~ *Commission* shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.