

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1010
Appropriations

(Delegate A. Jones)

Budget and Taxation

African American Heritage Preservation Program and Grant Fund - Noncapital
Grants and Donations

This bill allows for grants and donations to be made to the African American Heritage Preservation (AAHP) Grant Fund of the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and allows for the grant/donation funding to be used to award AAHP Noncapital Grants for preserving or sharing African American history or culture in the State. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues to and expenditures from the AAHP Grant Fund increase correspondingly, beginning in FY 2026, as grants and donations are made to the fund and AAHP Noncapital Grants are awarded from the fund.

Local Effect: Local government revenues and expenditures may increase, as discussed below.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Under provisions governing the AAHP Grant Fund, the bill:

- establishes that the AAHP Grant Fund consists of – in addition to existing funding – grants and donations to the fund; and
- authorizes the Secretary of Planning to award an AAHP Noncapital Grant – defined as a grant awarded for the purpose of preserving or sharing African American

history or culture in the State – funded by money received by the AAHP Grant Fund as grants and donations.

The bill specifies that if, after the award of all eligible AAHP Noncapital Grants, there is additional money in the AAHP Grant Fund received as grants and donations, the Secretary may award a grant, funded by that money, for a capital AAHP Project.

Current Law: There is an AAHP Program and an AAHP Grant Fund in MHT. The program has the purpose of identifying and preserving buildings, communities, and sites of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in the State. The program is administered by MHT in partnership with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC).

The AAHP Grant fund consists of (1) money appropriated in the State budget to the program; (2) investment earnings of the fund; (3) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the fund; and (4) money received from the sale of State general obligation bonds. Each fiscal year, the Governor is required to include in the annual operating or capital budget an appropriation of \$5.0 million to the AAHP Grant Fund. Individuals, business entities, nonprofit organizations, and political subdivisions may submit an application for a grant under the program.

MHT and MCAAHC review grant applications and make grant recommendations to the Secretary of Planning for a final decision. The Secretary may award a grant under the program only for an AAHP Project. “AAHP Project” means a capital project that (1) preserves buildings, communities, and sites of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in the State and (2) is for the acquisition of land or buildings or the construction or improvement of land or buildings.

State Fiscal Effect: Special fund revenues to and expenditures from the AAHP Grant Fund increase correspondingly, beginning in fiscal 2026, reflecting grants and donations made to the fund each year and corresponding awards of AAHP Noncapital Grants and, to the extent there is remaining grant/donation funding, grants for AAHP Projects. The amount of grants and donations made to the AAHP Grant Fund annually cannot be reliably estimated.

Local Fiscal Effect: Local government revenues and expenditures may increase as a result of receipt and spending of AAHP Noncapital Grants.

Small Business Effect: Small businesses may meaningfully benefit from the bill, as direct recipients of AAHP Noncapital Grants or through providing goods or services to recipients.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2025
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