

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

House Bill 752 (Delegate Schindler, *et al.*)
 Health and Government Operations

Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing Confederate Names

This bill establishes the Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing Confederate Names as an independent unit in the Executive Branch of State government. The commission must (1) develop and implement a framework to identify real property bearing a Confederate name that is owned by the State or a political subdivision and (2) make recommendations regarding the real property that should be renamed. By October 1, 2032, the commission must report its findings and recommendations to specified entities. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026, and terminates June 30, 2033.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No effect in FY 2026. General fund expenditures increase by \$111,200 in FY 2027; future years reflect ongoing costs, which terminate in FY 2034. Expense reimbursements for commission members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources. To the extent that the commission receives funding from other sources, general fund expenditures may be less (but not less than \$80,000). Revenues are not directly affected. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation for FY 2027 through 2033.**

(in dollars)	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	111,200	101,400	105,900	110,500
Net Effect	\$0	(\$111,200)	(\$101,400)	(\$105,900)	(\$110,500)

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

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Confederate name” means a name that commemorates the Confederate States of America (CSA) or any person who served voluntarily with CSA. “Political subdivision” means (1) a county; (2) a municipal corporation; (3) an unincorporated town; (4) a school district; or (5) a special district.

The commission consists of 24 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor must appoint one representative of each county. The Governor may remove a member for incompetence or misconduct. The commission must elect annually a chair and vice chair from among its members. A member of the commission may not receive compensation as a member of the commission but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses as provided in the State budget.

The commission must meet at least quarterly, and at the discretion of the chair or the Governor.

With the approval of the Governor, the commission must appoint a director. The director may not be a member of the commission, and the director serves at the pleasure of the commission, subject to concurrence of the Governor. The director is a special appointment in the State Personnel Management System and must be paid a salary of \$80,000 annually. The Governor must include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$80,000 for the salary of the director.

Nothing in the bill may be construed to authorize the commission to rename real property owned by the State or a political subdivision.

The commission may seek money from the federal government, foundations, and private sources in addition to State financing. The commission may accept gifts, grants, donations, requests, or endowments for any of its purposes. Money received and income and fees derived from educational materials and activities of the commission are not subject to reversion to the general fund. Money maintained is subject to audit by the State, including by the Legislative Auditor.

Current Law: There is no relevant State law regarding the prohibition or renaming of real property referencing CSA.

The Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America (Naming Commission) was established following the enactment of the federal fiscal 2021 National Defense Authorization Act. Among other

things, the Naming Commission was tasked with creating a list to identify specified names and information within the U.S. Department of Defense that commemorate CSA or any person who served voluntarily with CSA, including names, symbols, displays, monuments, or paraphernalia that commemorate CSA. The Naming Commission published three reports, and they can be read [here](#).

State Expenditures: No effect in fiscal 2026 as the bill and the mandated appropriation that provides staff for the commission both take effect beginning in fiscal 2027. Thus, general fund expenditures increase by \$111,210 in fiscal 2027, which reflects the bill's delayed July 1, 2026 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one director to staff the commission and produce the necessary report. It includes the mandated salary of \$80,000, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Position	1.0
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$103,565
Operating Expenses	<u>7,645</u>
Total FY 2027 State Expenditures	\$111,210

Future year expenditures reflect annual salary increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

This analysis does not include an estimate of any federal funds, foundation funding, private fund, or other donated funding and materials collected by the commission.

The Office of Legislative Audits can audit the commission with existing resources.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 566 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland Municipal League; Governor's Office; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Legislative Services

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