# Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

## FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
## First Reader

House Joint Resolution 8 (Delegate White Holland, *et al.*)
Rules and Executive Nominations

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**Apology and Acknowledgement of the State's Responsibility in Racial Terror Lynchings**

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This joint resolution issues an apology for and acknowledgement of the State's complicity and negligence in allowing the perpetration of acts of racial terror lynchings and related acts. The resolution further commits the State to taking reparative actions as recommended by the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including the prevention of the recurrence of racially motivated harms.

## Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The joint resolution does not directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission was originally established by Chapter 41 of 2019 to:

- hold public regional hearings in areas where a lynching of an African American by a White mob has been documented;
- receive recommendations from the public, including from families and communities affected by racially motivated lynchings, for addressing, engaging, and reconciling affected communities, including the erection of memorial plaques or signage at or near sites of racially motivated lynchings; and

- make recommendations for addressing the legacy of lynching that are rooted in the spirit of restorative justice.

The commission was also authorized to research (1) cases of racially motivated lynchings that are not documented but which are brought to the commission's attention and (2) the involvement of government entities and news media in cases of racially motivated lynching.

The commission's mandate was later extended by Chapter 92 in 2021, and Chapters 11 and 12 of 2023. The termination date of the commission is June 30, 2026.

**Additional Comments:** A required final report of the commission's findings and recommendations was submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly in December 2025. In the report, the commission makes extensive recommendations for supportive remedies in numerous categories. Although the resolution does not directly affect State (or local) finances or operations, the implementation of the commission's recommendations would likely have a significant impact.

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## Additional Information

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

**Designated Cross File:** SJ 3 (Senators Sydnor and Augustine) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

**Information Source(s):** Office of the Attorney General; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 11, 2026
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